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Inter-Arab Affairs

Soviet Jews Immigration Plans Denounced

LD2901220990 Tunis TAP in French 1500 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, 29 Jan—Today Chedli Klibi, general secretary of the Arab League, denounced the illegal nature and contravention of human rights by the organized movement for the massive immigration of Soviet Jews into Israel and called on the United States, the USSR, and the EEC countries to intervene [words indistinct] with all their influence to stop this illegal immigration.

Mr Klibi also appealed to the Arab countries to act together to develop a joint Arab action to thwart this latest plot hatched against the Arab nation.

Here is the text of the statement:

"The massive emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel must [words indistinct] because of the restrictions imposed on their welcome in the [words indistinct] and the arrangements made to do this by Israel with the help of various [words indistinct] parties is in contradiction with [words indistinct] human rights invoked to demand the freedom of emigration.

"To constrain Soviet Jews to leave for Israel, to the exclusion of any other country, constitutes in effect a flagrant violation of human rights, in this case the freedom of movement.

"Moreover, setting up these immigrants once they have arrived in Israel [word indistinct] on territories belonging to [words indistinct] who have been dispossessed, or who could be. This obviously conflicts with the most basic human rights.

"Even if these immigrants agreed to go to Israel, how could they be given the right to set themselves up on territory where they had never lived before, against the wishes of those who are legitimately entitled to it, while even Palestinians, chased from their homeland, do not have the right to return there?

"Moreover," Mr Klibi adds in his statement, "a massive arrival of new immigrants in the occupied territories can only [words indistinct] the obstinacy of the Israeli extremists and would thus bring to nought the chances for a lasting and global peace in the region.

"For all these reasons we believe that it is the duty of the two superpowers and all the states capable of influencing the course of events, in particular the EEC countries, to take every measure to preserve the right of people and to impose respect for international law.

"It is the right of the Arab states to act together on the subject of serious threats—as was proposed by King Husayn and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat—to determine a joint Arab action to thwart the plot hatched against our central cause.

"Such concerted action should take place on the occasion of the first meeting to be held by our leaders to debate the grave dangers confronting the whole Arab nation."

Egyptian Ministry Cited on Emergency Summit

LD3001093190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources disclosed today that an emergency Arab summit will be held soon in Cairo. The source did not specify a date for the summit.

The same source said that the summit will discuss, in particular, the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, and that the Egyptian president will dispatch envoys to Arab countries to request the attendance of their leaders at the Cairo summit.

Egyptian Message on Mideast Peace Talks Proposal

LD2901132690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1204 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 29 (KUNA)—Egyptian ambassador here handed a message from his government to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah regarding progress in talks with the United States on a Mideast settlement.

Ambassador Rif'at Sa'id delivered the message this morning on behalf of the Egyptian minister of foreign affairs 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid who visited the U.S. last week and held rounds of talks with senior U.S. policy makers.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that the message explains minutes of the talks between 'Abd al-Majid and U.S. officials on a possible meeting between the U.S., Egypt and Israel followed by an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

Sheikh Sabah thanked his Egyptian counterpart for his efforts and for keeping leaders in the area informed about the results of the talks on this crucial matter.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges Opposition to 'Great Israel'

LD3001100890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0942 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 30 (KUNA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat called on the Arab states in a statement published here Tuesday to confront an American-supported Isreali plan to establish the so-called "Great Israel."

In a statement published by the Saudi newspaper AL-YAWM, the Palestinian leader said the Jewish exodus to Israel is implemented "according to a malicious Zionist scheme."

He urged the Arab organizations and institutions to pressure parallel European organisations and the U.N. agencies "to use their good offices in order to stop this exodus."

President 'Arafat warned against the Jewish influx to Israel; from the Soviet Union and East European countries saying that this influx will "jeopardise the Middle East peace process."

On his frequent visits to Cairo, 'Arafat said his visits to the Egyptian leadership and "to acquaint one's-self with the latest developments of the Palestinian cause."

Responding to a question, the Palestinian president praised Saudi Arabia, saying it has always been meeting its financial obligations to the Palestinian uprising. He urged other Arab states to follow suit.

PLO's 'Abbas on Dialogue, Jewish Immigration

JN2201201590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1705 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has stated that no one can dictate conditions on the PLO to force it into negotiations with Israel without prior provisions or restrictions. He added that since the PLO has announced its stance on Secretary of State James Baker's plan, the ball is now in the U.S. and Israel's court.

'Abbas stated that the PLO still holds fast to its right to form the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with Israel. The PLO also maintains that the agenda of the proposed dialogue should be open for discussing the destiny of the occupied Arab territories, provided that there also be an international party to the dialogue.

In a statement to WAM, 'Abbas called on the United States to exert more efforts in putting further pressure on Israel. He pointed out that the U.S. Administration's excuse of not being able to pressure Israel is an untrue statement that stands in contrast to the nature of U.S.-Israeli relations.

'Abbas indicated that the failed attempts by the Yitzhaq Shamir government to throw the ball into others' courts gives the impression that the dialogue has reached an impasse which can only be overcome by a tremendous endeavor.

Abu-Mazin emphasized that the valiant Palestinian intifadah in the occupied Arab territories will continue until liberation and the establishment of the Palestinian state on the national soil. He also stressed that the latest Israeli arrest campaign against Palestinian figures in the occupied Arab territories will not affect the intifadah. This campaign, Abu-Mazin held, reflects the state of tension currently prevailing in Israel.

On the future of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Abu-Mazin said this dialogue is continuing on the ambassadorial level in Tunisia. He also indicated that the fact that there have been no lengthy meetings between officials of the two sides reflects the wish of the U.S. Administration.

Answering a question on the effect of Soviet Jewish immigration on the peace process in the Middle East, Abu-Mazin said: This immigration worries us deeply. Therefore, the PLO has decided to carry out high-level contacts with all the concerned parties in order to tackle this issue.

He also pointed out that the issue of Jewish immigration to Palestine has provided Yitzhaq Shamir with a new reason to talk about expansion and has led him to believe that this will create a new fait accompli, whether in the West Bank and Gaza or in the occupied Golan.

'Abbas expressed his belief that the Soviet Jews who desire to emigrate are forced to go to occupied Palestine because all other doors have been closed, especially the U.S. door. 'Abbas added that the Palestinian leadership will discuss this issue with the Soviet leadership. However, discussion will not be based on any objection to the new Soviet policy of perestroyka. Rather, discussion will aim at finding ways and means that might reduce the arrival of the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

Mahmud 'Abbas asserted that the issue of the Soviet immigration will be put up for discussion in any upcoming Arab meeting. He also warned that the danger posed by this immigration is not exclusive to Palestine, and that it will reflect on the Arab situation in general.

Abu-Mazin appealed to East European countries not to restore their relations with Israel unless the reasons that motivated them to break their ties in the first place are removed.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations, Abu-Mazin said the Palestinian leadership is seriously studying a number of indicators which have recently surfaced. These indicators reflected Syria's desire to improve its relations with the PLO as a prelude to dispatching a Palestinin delegation to Damascus to hold a dialogue with the Syrians.

On the PLO's stance regarding the call by Khalid al-Fahum, Palestinian National Salvation Front chairman, to reunite the Palestinian factions, Mahmud 'Abbas said he believes this call does not contain anything new. He pointed out that the unity of the Palestinian ranks was achieved at the 18th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in 1988.

'Abbas added: If the Palestinian factions, which are present in Damascus, are inclined to joint work, then let them come to the PNC and the Central Council; they are members of the two. 'Abbas also expressed his belief that al-Fahum's return is indicative of Syria's desire to

improve its relations with the PLO. He also explained that the Hamas movement enjoys the membership of the PNC, and that the question of its joining the PLO Executive Committee is left for the PNC to decide.

Abu-Mazin pointed out that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has not threatened to resign his post. President 'Arafat, Abu-Mazin continued, said he will come back to the PNC if the current peace efforts are deadlocked. In this case, the PNC will decide on what can be done, even if this entails Abu-'Ammar's (Yasir 'Arafat) resignation.

On the results of the Palestinin president's visit to the Sultanate of Oman, Abu-Mazin praised the sultanate's stand, which supports the Palestinian cause. He added that Oman has established an embassy for the state of Palestine in Muscat. This is in addition to Oman's concern with the Palestine question in international forums and its contacts with various international sides, including Britain, which are aimed at securing international support for the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat: Shamir Statements Reveal 'Ugly Face'

JN1901183290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Palestinian president brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that were it not for the unlimited support to Shamir provided by the U.S. Administration, the former would never have dared to expose his horrendous schemes against the Arab nation.

When asked at a press interview held in Baghdad about Shamir's recent statements, brother Abu-'Ammar said: Were it not for the unlimited support to Shamir provided by the U.S. Administration, he would not have dared display this impudence and insolence by exposing his appalling schemes against the Arab nation. He recalled that when it reduced its contributions to the budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency by $8 million, the U.S. Administration increased directly and indirectly its aid to the Israeli Government to enable it to build new settlements to absorb new immigrants. He added: The Arab nation must face this situation decisively and firmly. Otherwise, remorse will be of no use. Let God be my witness that I kept those concerned informed.

In response to a question on whether he expects Shamir's statements to adversely affect the Middle East peace process, brother Abu-'Ammar said: These statements unequivocally reveal the true nature of the Israeli position as well as the ugly face that seeks nothing other than further swallowing of Arab territories, the face that rejects all peace formulas. However, let Shamir and other Zionist enemy leaders know that our launching of the peace initiative has never been a sign of weakness. Besides, Shamir must remember that the current international equations will not remain unchanged, and that U.S. support will not continue forever, particularly considering that we are seeing changes on the overall international scene. He who goes against the tide of history cannot continue to perpetrate crimes.

In response to a question on King Husayn's statements on the Israeli troop concentrations on the Jordanian borders, brother Abu-'Ammar indicated that the Israelis, judging from the nature of their current behavior on the Jordanian and Lebanese borders and also from statements by Israeli politicians and military officials, are preparing for a certain action. This action might involve the Jordanian or Lebanese front. Through this military action, Israel will attempt to find a way out of its current bottleneck. In this regard, I would like to point out that the aggressions on our camps in southern Lebanon or on the cities and villages there have not ceased over the past few months.

On the bilateral talks held during his recent Cairo visit, President brother Abu-'Ammar said: My recent visit to Egypt was actually made to hand over Jerusalem medals to creative Palestinian minds. Of course, I seized this good opportunity to meet with brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who personally patronized the Palestinian cultural week and ordered that all amenities required for the success of this week be provided. Here, I would like to thank him and the Egyptian people once again for this care.

Brother Abu-'Ammar answered a question on an armed march staged in Nabulus saying: The strike forces stage similar marches constantly. Reporters might have seen this march for the first time. It is well known that the strike forces are armed. They have these arms. However, the orders issued by the Palestinian leadership have so far not sanctioned the use of these arms within the framework of the intifadah activities. It must be well known that the Palestinian leadership is making strenuous efforts and formidable endeavors to ensure compliance with these orders, especially in view of the Israeli escalation of attacks and the stepping up of the crimes being committed by the Israeli occupation troops and the herds of armed settlers against our children and women. The fountain of blood in the Palestinian march has not stopped for a single day. No single day passes without martyrs, wounded, and detained due to the daily Israeli crimes.

On the call for holding a new session of the Palestine National Council [PNC], brother Abu-'Ammar said: The PNC will be held in due course. It is well known that the PNC speaker is the one who is authorized to call the PNC into session. The issue of calling the PNC into session is not currently under consideration, despite the fact that some brothers are calling for holding a new PNC session. However, such a PNC session must be preceded by a meeting of the PLO Central Council.

On the Syria-based factions and the call made by [Khalid] al-Fahum, brother Abu-'Ammar said: We welcomed them to the PLO Central Council meetings. We

welcome them to these meetings, considering that they are members of this Council and that they have the right, according to the Palestinian democratic rules, to attend these meetings. We welcome any of the brothers who desire to continue the march.

Commentary Excoriates Shamir, Other Leaders

JN2101123490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1917 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Maniacs like Yitzhaq Shamir and others of his ilk among the leaders of the Israeli failure can gulp sea water, but will never be able to take a single step forward toward the realization of their dark dreams. It is easier for Shamir and the other Shamirs of Israeli craziness to drink the Mediterranean waters close to them rather than end the glorious Palestinian intifadah. Drinking the waters of every ocean would be easier for Shamir's Israel than:

1. Excluding the PLO, the heroic Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, from the equation of war and peace in the Middle East.

2. Peddling maneuvers and plots against the Palestinian people's unity, destiny, progress, and legitimate national aims.

3. Obstructing the national Palestinian desire to establish in practice the state of Palestine on the soil of Palestine.

Yes, these are cogent and irrefutable facts that cannot be undermined by all the Israeli occupation falsehoods, regardless of any U.S., diabolical, or other support. Even the Massada complex itself cannot change the course of the dominant Palestinian historic fact, which is imposing its principles and special landmarks on the present and future pages of the contemporary age.

The Palestinian revolution erupted a quarter of a century ago in order to triumph. Similarly, the glorious Palestinian intifadah erupted more than 2 years ago to crown the Palestinian revolution's triumph over all lost wars and on all fronts. It has emerged as a creative force leading to the historic process of building the independent Palestinian state, gaining the admiration of the entire world. Everyone has seen the wondrous nature of the intifadah, which has crippled Israel—the brutal force—and put its U.S. Administration allies in the worst state and in the weakest position. This was a result of the dominance of the Palestinian reality and the world's support for the legitimacy of Palestinian national rights and the legality of the PLO-led legendary creative Palestinian struggle to seize these rights.

Let Shamir go to hell then. Yes, let him go to hell. Let the collapsing Israeli occupation do whatever it likes. Let the Israeli leaders' lunacy bring them whatever dreams and delusions they cherish, for they possess nothing that can shake the mountain of the Palestinian reality. This reality contains all the conditions, elements, and components of a historic triumph, in addition to many other things that cannot be imagined by the leaders of the Israeli failure and that can turn things upside down and vice versa at the right time and whenever deemed necessary by the circumstances and requirements of the struggle.

Let those near and far hear well that the valiant Palestinian people under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, are entitled and nationally duty-bound to protect their accomplishments and the fruits of their victories and to continue their legitimate liberation struggle for the sake of their national legitimate aims. To achieve all this, our people will not hesitate to use all legitimate means of struggle needed to protect their accomplishments and strengthen their progress toward a great victory regardless of challenges and sacrifices and in line with these people's national and militant consciousness.

O Palestinian mountain, no wind has shaken you and you will not be shaken by the fiercest of storms.

PLO's Milhim Views Israel's Unilateral Election

JN2101104890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jan 90 pp 1, 20

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Muhammad Milhim, head of the Occupied Homeland Affairs Department and PLO Executive Committee member, has warned against an Israeli attack on Arab countries adjacent to Palestine.

Commenting on reports from occupied Palestine on the Israeli authorities' attempts to influence and pressure some Palestinian figures into meeting Israelis as a prelude to holding unilateral elections in the occupied homeland, Milhim said, in an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, that the aim of the occupation is to gain time and cover up the aggressive Zionist intentions because the Israeli scheme does not end with elections.

Milhim added: We should not belittle the Zionist scheme or think that the Israelis are only caught in a vicious circle because of their failure to control our kinfolk in the occupied homeland, who have marked out the path of their struggle effectively through their blessed uprising and their support for the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Milhim went on to say: Although Israel's persistence in trying to influence the blessed intifadah and the Palestinian political program might embarrass its allies in the United States of America and the West, it should the sound the alarm about the schemes devised by the expansionist Zionist mentality, which is seeking to accomplish its program one step at a time. It began this program by the usurpation in 1948, the occupation and settlement in 1967, and now, in the 1990's, it wants to

make its great dream come true by establishing the Greater Israel to absorb the Jewish immigrants and to declare it a fait accompli in this region and the world.

Milhim said the Arab position must be clear to face the Zionist scheme. He also called for a clearer international stand, especially from those countries who have viewed the Palestinian political program as a means to establish a lasting and just peace for the Palestinian people in particular and the Middle East in general.

Milhim said that the reason behind Israeli arrogance is primarily the unlimited U.S. support for Israel. He added: If America were serious about reaching a just solution to the Palestine question and the Middle East problem, well, the world—the whole world—has seen the Israeli reaction to the statements made by Robert Dole, U.S. Senate minority leader, when he called for reducing, even by 5 percent, U.S. aid to Israel. As a result, a state of chaos broke out in Israel that has not yet abated.

The PLO Executive Committee member added: Our people in the occupied homeland, who foiled successive Israeli schemes to find substitute leaderships for the PLO before the outbreak of the glorious intifadah, will not put the intifadah at risk, which has terrified Israel and its allies. Through their remarkable steadfastness and support for their leadership, the PLO, our people will also thwart all conspiracies, especially now that a comprehensive reassessment of the Palestinian struggle inside and outside the occcupied territories is currently being carried out.

'Lack' of Arab Support to Intifadah Lamented

JN2001075090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1949 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: We have said over and over again that the absence of coordinated, unified Arab action in support of the intifadah only lays it open to further repression and oppression and makes it that much easier for the Zionist state to commit most hideous crimes against our steadfast Palestinian people. That much was made absolutely clear by the enemy itself when terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir said a few days ago, in effect, that Arabs are too weak to do anything against Israel. Shamir argued that, under the circumstances, conditions are now right for Israel to crush the intifadah and retain the West Bank and Gaza Strip for settling Soviet Jewish immigrants. Conditons are even favorable for achieving the ambition of Greater Israel. Even though Shamir backtracked somewhat subsequently, that is not the point. The point is that he unambiguously noted with satisfaction that the intifidah has thus far failed to embody the potential of its strategic heartland—its Arab environment. He called for seizing this opportunity to put down the intifidah and nullify its achievements. This is the line of thinking adopted by our Israeli enemy. It is because of the near-abandonment of the intifadah and its valiant masses that the enemy can go full speed ahead in brutalizing our Palestinian masses without fear of a united Arab reaction that could put an end to Israel's arrogance, aggression, and grisly crimes.

In other words, the Israeli enemy realizes that Arab support of the intifadah does not go much beyond lip service. Present Arab support still falls short of what the intifadah relies on and needs to step up its militant resistance to occupation and to hasten the hour of its collapse before forcibly kicking it out of our land of Palestine, and before our independent state comes into being and the suffering and torment of our people come to an end.

The lack of unified, practical, and real Arab support for the intifadah, together with American backing for the Israeli enemy, only encourages the Israeli enemy to pursue the killings, oppression, and repression of our people—who have nothing to fight with but stones. Our people are battling the enemy not just for their own independence and freedom, but also for an overall, equitable peace that would rid the region of the threat of war and destruction and move it toward affluence and progress. Terminating Israeli occupation of our country Palestine would also demolish its racism, adventurism, crimes, and the expansionist ambitions that it harbors further afield in the Arab world. Ending occupation in Palestine, therefore, should be a pan-Arab mission, and is bound to advance supreme pan-Arab interests. All Arabs are urged to assume their responsibilities.

The intifadah is the bridgehead of Arab action and as such is a guarantor of eventual success; it is therefore, imperative that it be supported.

'Arafat Mediation Eases Libya-Chad Tension

JN2201133990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jan 90 p 21

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Palestinian diplomatic sources in Amman have revealed that Palestinian mediation has succeeded in easing tension on the Libyan-Chadian border. The sources said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's recent visits to Tripoli and Ndjamena have succeeded in convincing officials there to order their forces, which had taken up combat positions on the border, to withdraw to other positions.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that the mediation was the result of a joint Libyan-Chadian request arising from the trust placed in the Palestinian leadership and its positive role in resolving differences between sisterly and fraternal countries and in rallying support for the main Arab cause.

The sources said that the Palestinian efforts will continue in order to establish good-neighbor relations between the two countries. The sources did not rule out a high-level meeting between the two countries to resolve their border problems.

The sources added that during his visit 'Arafat observed that both Libya and Chad were willing and ready to ease border tension and establish normal relations. This encouraged the Palestinian leadership to continue mediating to reach an agreement over the disputed areas.

Algeria

Morocco's Filali on Algiers Meeting Expectations

LD2501141290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The proceedings of the Grand Algerian-Moroccan Joint Committee continue in Algiers today. These proceedings began yesterday under the cochairmanship of Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Seyed Ghazali, and his Moroccan counterpart, Mr Adellatif Filali, whom our colleague Djamila Rouabhia met to question on the content of the agreements to be signed in Algiers. The Moroccan minister had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Filali] In fact, there is a program of action which was agreed upon at the first meeting held by the committee in Rabat last year. This agreement naturally includes many issues concerning Algerian-Moroccan cooperation, particularly the commercial exchanges, the economic and industrial cooperation, in addition to the problems resulting from the movement of people from Morocco to Algeria and vice-versa.

The agreement also stresses the need to coordinate actions with regard to the economic policy for the future. This reflects our awareness of the challenges we face. The climate in which we are living compels us not only to reinforce our coordination but also to endeavor to set up joint enterprises in several domains, such as industry, commerce, tourism, and training.

[Roubahia] Your excellency the minister, what is your assessment of the actions undertaken since the first session of the committee to strengthen this bilateral cooperation?

[Filali] I believe the current meeting in Algiers has yielded many positive results [as heard]. However, there are naturally some negative aspects for there are still administrative obstacles in the two countries. These obstacles have a negative effect on this cooperation. Our desire now...

[Roubahia, interrupting] Can you tell us what are some of these obstacles?

[Filali] To be more precise, there are administrative or legal obstacles. Naturally, the two governments are required to take measures to eliminate these obstacles and to allow cooperation to continue on the right path. [end recording]

This was Mr Abdellatif Filali, the Moroccan Foreign Minister, who was talking to our colleague Djamila Rouabhia on the content of the agreements which are due to be signed and the problems existing between Algeria and Morocco on strengthening economic relations. [as heard]

3 Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD2501232590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The work ended this evening at the Foreign Ministry of the second session of the Algerian-Moroccan Joint Grand Committee with the signing of three documents providing for multifaceted dealings:

The first document contains the minutes of eight topics concerning the following fields: cooperation in the domain of improving of conditions of movement, life and residence of nationals in both countries; cooperation in the field of social security and employment; trade, monetary and banking cooperation; cooperation in the domain of industry; cooperation in the field of agriculture, forests and maritime fishing and transport; cooperation in the field of postal, telephone and telegraph services; and finally, cooperation in the domain of energy and mines.

On the other hand, the two ministers [Algerian, Moroccan foreign ministers] signed two documents regarding cooperation in the domain of customs and taxes. The first concerns ways of avoiding dual taxation, and laying down rules for mutual assistance in the field of taxes on income and wealth, while the second concerns the exchange of letters on completion of the trade and tariff agreement signed on 19 March 1989. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Recognizes New Parties

LD2901224590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] In the national political arena two new political parties were born today: the Democratic Islamic Arab Unity Party, headed by Belhadj Khalil Harfi, which is registered in Miaa in the province of Ghardaiya. The second party is the Popular Sociaty for Unity and Action, headed by Mr Allal Mehdi Abbes, and it is registered in Bech Jerah in Algiers.

The two parties were recognized today by the Ministry of Interior, which allows them to legally practice their political activities.

With these two parties, the number of political parties in our country becomes 20.

New Islamic Movement Established in Country

LD2101022190 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] A new Islamic movement has been established in Algeria: the Association of the Just Way for Cultural and Social Activity (known as the FRJ in French). About 1,000 people had gathered for the occasion at Touggourt in the south of the country.

Egypt

Egyptian Embassy Lobbies U.S. Congress on Aid

NC2701132790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Washington, 27 Jan (MENA)—The Egyptian Embassy in Washington has begun wide contacts with U.S. Congress leaders regarding U.S. aid to Egypt, prior to the beginning of the debate on the draft budget for the coming fiscal year which the U.S. Administration will submit to the Congress on Monday.

The MENA correspondent here has learned that the purpose of the consultations that the embassy has already started with key figures in the Senate and the House of Representatives is to explain the importance of preserving the figure set by the U.S. Administration in the new budget as representing its aid to Egypt and the need to maintain the annual $2.1 billion that has been the aid figure in recent years. [passage omitted]

It should be recalled that Senator Robert Dole, Republican Senate minority leader, has proposed a reduction in U.S. assistance to the countries that are the largest recipients of U.S. aid; namely, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan, and the Philippines. The funds so reduced will be used to provide the necessary assistance to East European and Latin American countries.

According to congressional sources, Dole's proposal still faces strong resistance, despite the undeclared support it enjoys by some senior U.S. Administration officials. The same sources added that a number of leading figures in the Senate and the House of Representatives are working on a counterproposal to the effect that, in the wake of the changes in the Eastern bloc, the need for high military spending by the United States in Western Europe will not be required. The advocates of this proposal call for a mere 2 percent cut in the West Europe defense budget, thus saving a total of $2 billion approximately which could be earmarked to provide assistance to East European countries and to meet several other requirements.

It should be recalled that the cut proposed by Senator Dole if approved will save only $250 million, an amount that will meet only a small portion of these requirements, not to mention the harm such a decision could cause to the friends of the United States, thus compromising U.S. interests in the long run.

Further on Mubarak, 'Arafat 28 Jan Speeches

NC2801134890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that the Egyptian people, government, and leadership will perpetuate their strategic and historic ties with the Palestinian people. He said that it is wrong to believe that the Palestinian people should sacrifice their territories and struggle for an unjust political settlement, and vowed that this will not happen under any circumstances.

In a message he addressed to the political conference organized last night by the Egyptian committee on support for the intifadah, President Mubarak said that the Palestinian intifadah has taken the Palestinian issue to the forefront of issues which interest the entire world. In his message, which was read by Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly foreign relations committee, the president hailed the intifadah and said that it has taken the issue to a new stage in which the Palestinians have succeeded in dealing with international changes and advancing toward peace under the PLO leadership—their sole, legitimate representative, on whom they base their international legitimacy.

President Mubarak hailed the Palestinians, their intifadah, and vowed Egypt's solidarity with them until victory. He said: There is no need for me to reiterate to you known facts about Egypt's honorable stand on the Palestinian people's issue and struggle. It is not a new stand for the Egyptian people, who have fought in war and peace to retrieve the usurped Arab rights.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat appealed to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership to retract their decision to allow the direct emigration of Soviet Jews to the Palestinian land. He said: We have no objection to their emigrating anywhere other than my land.

In a speech to the ceremony, the Palestinian president called on U.S. President George Bush to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination since the entire world—with the exception of the United States and Israel—has agreed on the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

The Palestinian president expressed surprise that the U.S. President is concerned with human rights for everyone but the Palestinians, pointing out that all crimes committed against Palestinians are perpetrated with U.S. funds and weapons.

President 'Arafat warned of how grave the explosive situation in the Middle East will be if the Shamir government persists in its intransigence and rejection of the Palestinian peace initiatives. He said that the Middle East is the only region in the world where there is no limit to conventional and nuclear armaments and that Israel possesses an arsenal of weapons, including nuclear ones, which threatens the security and peace of the region and the world.

The Palestinian president launched a violent attack on Shamir's policy and accused him of attempting to sabotage efforts to establish comprehensive and just peace in the region. He said that Shamir continues this policy by refusing to recognize the PLO, its leadership, and its right to name its delegation to the negotiations. 'Arafat added: We are not demanding recognition from Shamir

because every youth who throws a stone in the occupied territories is a son of the Palestinian people, the PLO, and its leadership. Shamir is backed by the United States and has his head buried in the sand. He is not facing ghosts but rather the Palestinians in his war against south Lebanon and in his confrontation with the sons of the intifadah.

'Arafat remarked that the Palestinians realize that they are not facing Israel but rather the United States. He denounced the continued U.S. support for Israel and noted that the United States paid an extra $165 million to Israel during Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent visit to Washington for the development of the Jericho-1 and Jericho-2 missiles.

'Arafat then asked: The United States has developed these missiles in order to strike the Soviet Union in the event of any possible confrontation, but what will be the target of these missiles now following the policy of detente? He added: They will be targeted against all Arab capitals because of the continued hostile U.S. policy toward the Arabs.

Commenting on the Palestinian peace initiatives, 'Arafat said that they stem from a position of strength and aim for just peace. He demanded that any future steps be similar to the ones in Namibia and that any elections in the occupied territories be carried out under UN supervision.

He added that if the peace efforts fail because of Shamir's intransigence, then he will convene the Palestine National Council to choose another course.

The Palestinian president stressed that the Palestinian intifadah will continue until the Palestinians fully obtain their national rights. He added that the intifadah has yielded 10,038 martyrs; 56,000 wounded, including 6,600 handicapped; 5,600 miscarriages; and 66,000 Palestinians in prisons and detention camps.

Musa Says 812 Political Detainees in Egypt

JN2301121090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Jan 90 p 1

[Excerpt] In statements to Muhammad Zayid, AL-AHRAM's deputy chief editor Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has stated that in view of President Husni Mubarak's instructions to enhance security and democracy many measures have been taken, foremost being the case-by-case study of every detainee's file to determine their release. He said that this task has so far resulted in the release of 22 detainees after it had been ascertained that there was no longer any security requirement for their continued detention.

On the number of detainees, excluding those who were recently released, the interior minister said the total number of detainees is 2,411, of which 812 are political detainees while the rest had been arrested for criminal activities related to drugs, public funds, and food supplies. [passage omitted]

500 Detainees Released

NC2901151690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1411 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—A responsible security source has asserted that 500 detainees have been released since Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa assumed his post on 12 January 1990.

The sources added that the releases were made upon direct instructions from the interior minister to release all detainees whose release has been ordered by the courts.

The source told MENA that those released include persons detained on charges of forced robbery and pickpocketing, certain dangerous criminals, dealers in drugs and foreign currency, and persons who manipulated public supplies. All these persons had obtained second-time court rulings for their release which are final and binding.

The source noted that a total of 2,411 persons were detained in the past period [not further specified], 831 on political charges and the rest on charges of illegal dealing in drugs and foreign currency, undermining public security, and manipulating public supplies. [passage omitted]

Libya To Begin Payment of Workers' Wages

JN2501200390 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Jan 90 p 1

[By Latifah 'Abd-al-Razzaq]

[Excerpt] The Libyan Government has okayed the transfer to Egypt of $2 million in settlement of the first installment of funds owed to Egyptian workers employed in Libya before 1985. The money is to be paid in January this year.

Ahmad al-'Amawi, head of the general association of the Egyptian Workers Trade Unions, told a press conference yesterday that an agreement has been signed with the Libyan Producers' Union to settle the debt, estimated at 5 million Libyan dinars. He said that the money will be paid out shortly courtesy of the Workers Union and the Ministry of Manpower. [passage omitted]

Romanian Delegation Arrives on 3-Day Visit

NC2801103890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Deputy Prime Minister Gelu Voican Voiculescu, envoy of the Romanian National Salvation Front [NSF] heads the delegation which arrived in Cairo this morning on a 3-day visit. The

Romanian envoy is carrying a message from NSF President Ion Iliescu to President Husni Mubarak.

This is the first Romanian delegation to visit Egypt since the recent events in Romania, including the execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. The delegation will discuss bilateral relations and economic cooperation with Egyptian officials.

Petroleum Minister Leaves for Gabon Oil Conference

NC2401073790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0628 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has left Cairo for Gabon. He will participate in a 3-day conference of African oil ministers, which is to begin in Gabon on 26 January.

During the conference, the ministers will discuss ways of bolstering cooperation among African states in the field of petroleum projects. They will also seek to coordinate policies on oil exploration and foreign trade.

Thirteen African countries produce approximately 5 million barrels of petroleum daily, which represents 6.8 percent of the world's oil output. Nigeria, Egypt, Libya, and Algeria are the chief African producers.

Soviet Chemical Industry Deputy Minister Visits

NC2301074090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0618 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Viktor Romanov, Soviet deputy minister of the chemical industry, arrived in Cairo this morning at the head of a delegation which is paying a 1-week visit to Egypt.

The Soviet delegation will hold talks with officials from the General Federation of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce. It will also sign a 100 million pounds sterling barter agreement under which Egypt will get industrial and agricultural equipment and machinery while the USSR will get cosmetic products, perfumes, perfume oil, and soap.

UAE Chief of Staff Pays Visit to Cairo

NC2101154090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1254 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, United Arab Emirates chief of staff, arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the head of a military delegation on an official week-long visit to Egypt. The visit is in response to an invitation from Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

2 Kg of Heroin Seized at Cairo Airport

JN2501145590 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 Jan 90 p 1

[By 'Ali Shalabi and 'Abd-al-Razzaq Makadi]

[Text] Cairo airport police yesterday intercepted 2 kg of heroin in capsule form which had been swallowed by two passengers. The value of the heroin is estimated at 6 million Egyptian pounds. An African passenger arriving from Bangkok who looked unusually tired had aroused the suspicion of Major Husayn Bakir and Major 'Abd-al-'Aziz Safwat of airport investigation. The passenger admitted to Chief of Investigation Brigadier General Muhammad Yusuf that he had swallowed 150 capsules of cocaine [as published] weighing 1 kg. He informed on a fellow passenger who arrived on the same flight. The two said they were en route to Lagos to peddle the drug for $200,000.

Nigerians Caught With Drugs at Cairo Airport

NC2401141090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Security personnel at Cairo airport this morning thwarted an attempt to smuggle 10 kg of narcotic pills, worth an estimated 250,000 pounds, by an Nigerian passenger who arrived from Lagos on an Egypt Air flight bound for Bangkok.

The woman arrived at Cairo airport last night as a transit passenger on her way to Bangkok. One of her bags was left behind and was placed in Egypt Air's missing baggage area.

When the passenger returned this morning to claim the bag and continue her journey to Bangkok, security men noticed that she opened the bag and removed a small case which she tried to smuggle in from transit hall no 1 to a Nigerian citizen who was waiting for her outside the customs area.

The security men arrested the passenger and the Nigerian citizen. Narcotic pills were found inside the case. The passenger was not allowed to continue her journey, a file on the case was opened, and she and her companion were referred to the narcotics prosecutor's office.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Contacts Turkey on Euphrates

LD2901195890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Jan (JANA)—JANA has learned that the brother leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the universal 1 September revolution, today officially asked Turkey to reduce the period of time when the Euphrates River waters will be cut off from Syria and Iraq.

Turkey has decided to cut the flow of the Euphrates River to Syria and Iraq for 1 month in order to fill the Ataturk Dam.

Sudanese Officials Arrive for Visit 28 Jan

EA2901184990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Brigadier General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir and Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, Revolution Command Council members, arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Welcoming them was Colonel 'Abu Bakr Yunus Jabir, member of the historic leadership of the 1 September Revolution and the commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Delegation

LD2901153790 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The Brother Leader of the Revolution today received Staff Brigadier General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], and his accompanying delegation. Brig Gen al-Tahir delivered a message from Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese RCC.

RCC Delegation Departs

LD3001095790 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brigadier General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] in brotherly Sudan, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli yesterday evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir was at Tripoli International Airport to see off the Sudanese RCC member and his accompanying delegation.

In a statement to JANA before leaving Tripoli International Airport, Brig Gen Al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir said that his visit to Great Jamahiriyah was within the framework of consultations and exchanging views on issues which concern the Arab nation. In his statement, he said: We had a meeting with brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and conveyed a message to him from his brother Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC. We also discussed with our brothers in the Great Jamahiriyah all matters concerning Sudan.

Sudan

SPLA Reports Government Convoy Destroyed

EA2601175390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Excerpts] "Bright Star" campaign forces of the Special Commandos task force and Deng Nyal task force on Wednesday 24th January 1990 ambushed an enemy convoy that was returning from Kagwada to Juba in a futile attempt to evacuate their wounded soldiers of the Usud al-Ghaba [Jungle Lions] convoy besieged at Kagwada. The convoy was completely destroyed. Very many enemy soldiers were killed and remnants fled in disarray, throwing away their weapons.

"Bright Star" campaign forces destroyed five trucks and captured three lorries in good condition—one (Mica) lorry, Egyptian-made, No 71640, and two Austin lorries loaded with coffee reported to be the private property of the new commander of Equatoria, Major General PSC [Passed Staff College] Nasir al-Din Sulayman Ibrahim. While innocent soldiers are dying, the junta's commanders are trading in coffee and teak. This is an additional crime. [passage omitted]

One APC [armored personnel carrier] fled to Juba in full speed, probably to inform Juba of the danger on the Juba-Yei road. The commando APC was the only vehicle that escaped the ambush.

The "Bright Star" campaign commando warns soldiers in Kagwada, Yei, and Juba that the whole length of the 100 mile Juba-Yei road is now full of "Bright Star" campaign forces. Anyone that accepts to be deceived to move on this road has only himself to blame. SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] has provided sufficient warning. The Juba-Yei road is very dangerous.

In a related development, the "Bright Star" campaign commander again warned the population to keep away from military targets. "Bright Star" campaign is all around Juba, and Juba will be attacked again and again. Do not listen to the short-(?lived) lies of the junta. Ask the soldiers who recently fled to inside Juba from Mafao, Gondokoro, during the day of their bombardment. They will tell you the truth of how they fled leaving behind dead, wounded, and a 12.7-mm land rover [as heard] and 120-mm mortar. Those concerned must take our warnings of Juba seriously. As for Yei, no reinforcement will ever reach Yei.

Government Claims Control of Kagwada, Rebel Losses

EA2901193790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The mobile forces of Usud al-Ghaba [Jungle Lions] in the area west of Juba, on the Juba-Yei road, have inflicted heavy losses on the outlaws and managed to purge the Kagwada area. The forces have recaptured the entry points and gained control of the security situation there. Our forces killed 12 outlaws and a great number were wounded. They captured four Kalashnikov rifles and a great quantity of ammunition. Our forces enjoy high morale, and they continue their activities in the area around Juba.

SPLA Warns Citizens To Leave Juba

EA2901220090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Listeners, greetings to you all. As you may have heard from the news, today was the day given by the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and Army [SPLM-SPLA] to the Americans, British, UN, and Red Cross to evacuate their people who are living in Juba. For today we shall not shoot at any plane, but if any military plane comes today, we will shoot at it. We have simply given these people today to evacuate their people from Juba.

The SPLA's warning is valid for all the citizens living in Juba. These citizens must leave Juba immediately. They must adhere to this warning, since the warning given to foreigners also goes to the citizens living in Juba.

Al-Bashir on Rebel Shelling of Juba

EA2901174990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1016 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 29 (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has described the shelling attack launched by the rebels on the capital of Equatoria region Juba an attempt to raise the moral spirit of their troops after the Armed Forces had successfully crushed the rebels in Upper Nile and Bahr al Ghazal regions.

In a statement published today by the daily "AL-INQADH AL-WATANI" Gen al-Bashir said the rebels lately have resorted to carrying out subversive acts, seeking information gains. He affirmed that the Armed Forces are capable to defeat the rebels anywhere in the south.

BBC, Minister Comment on Torture Reports

AB2501104590 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 24 Jan 90

[From "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There have been persistent claims that the military regime in Sudan has a less impeccable human rights record and that in fact, it has been responsible for torturing political prisoners. Parny Mason has just been in Khartoum and, on the line, Akwei Emusu asked him who was alleged to be doing the torturing.

[Begin Mason recording] I heard one person specifically named in one particular case which was the case of a senior academic at Khartoum University, who is alleged to have been tortured by somebody who is, in fact, one of his own former students and he is described as a hardline member of the National Islamic Front. I have not heard other people named as being responsible, because the various accounts speak of prisoners being very often blindfolded, presumably, partly in order to prevent identification and partly for purposes of intimidation. Because if these accounts are correct, people have had pistols put to their heads and threatened with execution. They were blindfolded and again they had been told that they were to be thrown into a well and then they had been thrown into the air to land on the ground. And so that sort of thing has apparently been going on.

[Emusu] Who are the targets?

[Mason] They are not politicians. There were a lot of politicians arrested after the coup and many of them have never been released. The targets are, as some have said, the left wingers, although the government tends to characterize all its opponents at the moment as communists and in many cases, this is simply absurd. But there are people like trade unionists, members of the Railways Union, [word indistinct] union, professional associations, doctors, lawyers, academics, the people who are suspected of being involved in planning civil disobedience for the strike, or people who are very much not in sympathy with the regime.

[Emusu] So what is the real objective of this kind of behavior do you think?

[Mason] I think those who are responsible for this, the objective would seem to be intimidation. The junta was certainly very worried over the prospect of the repetition of what happened in 1985 when Numayri was brought down after serious troubles on the streets and they are acting very harshly to nip anything like that in the bud. And it must be said that to a large extent, they have succeeded. Their control over Khartoum appears to be pretty solid at the moment.

[Emusu] And how was the information getting out. Are you confident that these are reliable? The stories?

[Mason] I cannot be confident that every story is correct, but I think that there are too many accounts circulating now for there not to be some substantial elements of truth in them. [end recording]

Pany Mason, who has just been in Khartoum. But while he was there, he talked to the minister of information, 'Ali Shummu, and asked how he reacted to the allegations of torture.

[Begin recording] [Shummu] I don't think that will happen because it is against our tradition as Sudanese to torture detainees. We don't think that is a right thing to be done by Sudanese. And if it has happened, I will definitely deny it and denounce it because I don't think this will happen by a Sudanese. [sentence as heard]

[Mason] I have specific stories about people being kept in water for 4 days, about people being made to stand in the sun for 16 hours, about people being burnt with cigarette ends and beaten. I mean there has been a number of specific accounts circulating in town. I am not saying they are all correct, but it does seem to me that this is a case to be answered.

[Shummu] Have you seen one of them?

[Mason] No, I haven't.

[Shummu] I don't think this is true, because, you know, in a situation like this always rumors spread. And it is very hard to prove, and if one continues... [changes thought] because this revolution, since it was started, it was first with a war of rumors, a psychological warfare against the government, and I think this is part of it. [end recording]

UN Denies Evacuating Staff From Juba

EA2601164190 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 26 (SUNA)—The United Nations has categorically denied as inaccurate recent BBC radio news reports of the evacuation of the 40 UN staff from Juba, a statement issued here Thursday [25 January] evening by the UNDP [UN Development Program].

The statement quoted the special representative of the (?U.N.) Michael Priestley as describing these reports as unfounded and stressing that they were not made by officially appointed U.N. spokespersons.

Priestley called on all U.N. agencies to consult him or his appointed spokesperson, who is public relations officer for Operation Lifeline Sudan Ms Pal Barks [name as received] in inquiries from the media on [words indistinct].

All inquiries to the U.N. from local and international media in Sudan will (?in future) be directed through Ms. Barks who is working in close collaboration with the United Nations Information Center in Khartoum, [words indistinct] and public contacts in Nairobi on own his behalf.

Tunisia

Demonstrators Stone Government Offices in Nefta

LD2801113290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] For the second time in less than a week, demonstrators yesterday attacked a governemnt office in Nefta town, southwest of Tunis. The protestors stoned the headquarters of the administrative district of Nefta before the security forces intervened. This is the second such attack; the first was in Sidi Bouzid last Wednesday.

President Ben Ali Assesses Flood Damage, Repairs

LD2901235590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2221 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Radio address by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the nation—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Citizens: Last week our country lived through difficult days due to the torrential rain that fell on central and southern regions, which in 3 days exceeded the usual average of rainfall for an entire year and which caused extensive loss in life.

While we could not divert the divine decree of God, and while we can only beg his mercy in this fate, we pray for the souls of the victims, and we offer recondolences and sympathy to their families and relatives.

In addition to the loss of lives, the rain and the floods caused extensive damage to homes and basic infrastructure: roads and railway lines, bridges, schools, and means of farming production such as wells, farms, transport means, herds of livestock. This was particularly felt in the governorates of Gafsa, Sidi Bouzid, Tozeur, Kasserine, and Kebili.

Preliminary assessments of these losses have exceeded 200 million dinars. Since the beginning, we have mobilized all means and formed a national committee for rescue and following up the situation. We have worked for the coordination of operations between the concerned ministries, especially the Ministries of Interior, National Defense, and Health to face up to the situation.

This sudden situation, the disruption of transport and various means of communications, especially in the first 2 days, made it impossible to intervene despite all attempts, and therefore, several families remained in difficult conditions and in dire need of their daily bread, blankets, and clothing, in addition to the fear and even the fright that had hit the inhabitants of these regions for their lives and possessions.

As much as one understands the psychological state of the moment then, this does not at justify what some elements did, elements who lost the most elementary values of patriotism and took advantage of the situation to stir up agitation, mislead innocent people, and transgress on public property and symbols of sovereignty at a time when national duty required self-restraint and putting together the efforts of all to alleviate the ordeal and contain its consequences.

From the first day, our efforts and interest focused on rescue and assistance operations, and offering urgent aid to the victims, by offering them shelter in public establishments and buildings. This assistance was also extended to the rural areas which could be reached, in an endeavor to alleviate the sufferings of the citizens, pending an evaluation and an assessment of the damage to undertake repairs in the short- and medium-term and to take precautions in the future to avoid such a tragedy. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, in order to normalize the situation and enable various regions to resume their usual economic and social activities, we decided at the extraordinary cabinet meeting this morning to fix a two-stage comprehensive plan. The first stage, which is urgent, deals with compensation of the losses incurred, while the second stage aims at undertaking the necessary work for the prevention against such flooding. [passage omitted]

We are going to begin the repairing of the basic infrastructure: roads, railway lines, bridges, and schools. These measures require financing to the tune of some 200 million dinars, according to current estimates, as I said earlier. We have decided to make immediately available the sum of 100 million dinars. Half of this amount, i.e. 50 million dinars, will be made available through a special effort from the state by rearranging priorities of the current budget, while the second half of the amount will be made available through the yield of national and foreign solidarity. We will secure the remaining amount to compensate all the losses by relying on our own resources, the efforts of our citizens, and also thanks to cooperation with fraternal and friendly countries, as well as world financial institutions. [passage omitted]

Citizens, what alleviates the ordeal of the difficult situation experienced by several regions of the country, an ordeal shared by all Tunisians, men and women, is the solidarity we have felt during this period on the part of our brothers and friends who have not hesitated to offer help and assistance to us, and to whom, on behalf of the Tunisian people, I offer them sincere thanks and appreciation. [passage omitted]

Source Denies REUTER Report on Killing Kurds

JN3001071890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—A source at the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information has denied a report carried today by REUTER claiming that Iraqi gunships killed 60 Kurdish citizens in a campaign in northern Iraq 10 days ago.

The source told INA that this report is false and unfounded and aims to infringe on the blessing of stability and security prevailing in the Kurdistan autonomous region—which enjoys extraordinary care from the leadership, particularly President Saddam Husayn—and on the major campaign for construction and cultural and touristic activities.

The source added that the parties behind such falsehoods are known to us, and their schemes that target Iraq have become known and have failed.

'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad for Visit 28 Jan

JN2901201290 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1928 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived last night in Baghdad from Cairo on a visit of several days to fraternal Iraq. He was received at the airport by senior Iraqi officials and brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Baghdad.

President Saddam Receives Visiting U.S. Senators

JN1301213790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this evening received U.S. Senators Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and Richard Shelby of Alabama, and their delegation.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Papers View Saddam's Peace Initiative

JN1401124590 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad Jan. 14. INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad today said that Iraq's insistence on the option of peace aims at accelerating affairs in Iran to the trend of lasting peace.

A daily article here today said that peace was the only breakthrough ensuring for Iran and its peoples their full and vital interests and realizes stability and security for the entire region. Peace would also provide for Iraq and Iran and countries of the region chances for the exploitation of their resources and potentials for achieving progress away from interferences of foreign forces, it pointed out.

The daily further added that Iraq's new initiative came to end stalling situation and place Iran rulers in a position that would disclose their intentions before their peoples and the world public opinion.

The daily stressed that the Iranian side should define its attitude either towards accepting peace as a forward step or reject it which means that it had resolved to an option far from this peace and thus would bear the full responsibility of possible consequences to such option.

AL-JUMHURIYAH, commenting on the Iraqi initiative said that this initiative would put a real end to the stage of war and place affairs on the path of normal peace.

It said that the Iraqi initiative is tabled on behalf of all Arab and Iranian prisoners of war and demonstrates to the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and end to the climates of war and restoring normal relations between the two countries.

The daily further said that conflict between the two countries would only be eliminated by a real peace based on pillars of restoring confidence between the two peoples and avoiding impossible conditions in front of real desire to rectify what could harm relations in the future and creating conditions of contradiction and political dispute that lead to states of enmity.

The BAGHDAD OBSERVER said that the Iraq-Iran peace talks have since faltered and reached deadlock with no progress made, mainly because there have never been direct talks, though the United Nations tried its best to arrange the meeting halls in such a way that hopes looked high in anticiption of the fruit.

But after about a year and a half it seemed that time was running and stalemate was becoming more concrete. Hence Iraq's new initiative.

In his Army Day speech on January 5, President Saddam Husayn proposed a fresh peace plan, calling, among other things, for direct talks between representatives of Iraqi and Iranian leaderships to be held alternately in Baghdad and Tehran.

Direct talks help create an atmosphere of comfort and build mutual trust. It is time the language of diplomacy replaced gunboat diplomacy and it is the time the peples of Iraq and Iran start to look forward to the bright prospects of peace envisaged in the new plan.

The two peoples of Iraq and Iran are neighbours with a common border of more than 1.000 kilometres. They have been neighbours since ancient times and will continue to be neighbours, willy or nilly. Therefore, the only option there is to feel secure and confident of the future is that of peace. Neighbours have to accept the fact that

they cannot change their own or each other's georgraphical location and thence it would be best for all to learn to live in peace, respect each other and establish good relations based on mutual interest and co-existence.

The idea of conducting direct talks in the two countries and opening the border for exchange of religious visits between people from both Iraq and Iran is a practical plan, which should, if accepted by Iran, pave the way for durable peace between the two countries. The peoples of Iraq and Iran would surely benefit from the result as would the peoples of the whole region and the world as a consequence. This is an opportunity not to waste, the daily stressed.

Official Denies Husayn, Saddam Car Crash Report

PM1001143690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jan 90 p 1

[Zaki Shihab and Layla Dib report: "Iraqi Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Car Carrying Saddam and Husayn Not Involved in Accident"]

[Text] Amman, Baghdad, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraq yesterday denied reports that a car carrying Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and King Husayn of Jordan was involved in a traffic accident in Baghdad last Friday during which the accompanying guards opened fire and, as a result, the Iraqi president's nephew was wounded.

An Iraqi official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone from Baghdad that these reports are fabricated and had no basis in fact.

The MIDEAST MIRROR bulletin issued in London yesterday said that the accident occurred while President Saddam and King Husayn were touring Baghdad after the Jordanian monarch's arrival in the Iraqi capital to attend the celebrations marking the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army.

The MIDEAST MIRROR bulletin, which was also broadcast by Israel, added that a car carrying photographers accompanying the two leaders' motorcade crossed a junction without stopping at the red traffic light, was hit by another speeding car in the motorcade, and consequently went out of control.

King Husayn returned to Amman the night before last after the conclusion of his visit to Iraq.

Although Jordanian sources have not commented on the news, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that King Husayn's and President Saddam's car did not sustain any damage and that the accident was probably confined to two cars, one of which was carrying photographers, but both were far from the two leaders' motorcade.

French Defense Minister, Delegation Pays Visit

Received by Ramadan

JN2901151690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, has received French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement and his delegation.

The RCC member emphasized the strong and distinguished nature of Iraqi-French ties. He said that these ties will be broader and more developed in the future.

The French defense minister praised the advanced French relations with Iraq, and expressed his country's interest in strengthening and broadening them. He also praised the process of building and progress in Iraq.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Iraqi ambassador to France and the French ambassador to Iraq, the future of Iraqi-French relations and means to develop them were discussed.

Departs 29 Jan

JN2901191290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement and his delegation left Baghdad today after a 3-day official visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the French minister expressed his happiness in visiting Iraq and meeting with President Saddam Husayn. He praised Iraq's efforts to speed up the improvement of its military and economic strength, particularly in the post-war era. He said these efforts are the result of the Iraqi leadership's strong will.

The French minister also said that Iraq is a strong and earnest country that is seeking sincerely to achieve security, stability, and a comprehensive and permanent peace in the region.

1990 Budget Totals 24.4 Billion Dinars

JN2701213090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has said that Iraq's consolidated budget for the year 1990 totals 24.4 billion dinars.

Dr Hammadi added that the budget consists of the following three components: The current expenditure budget, which amounts to 10.7 billion dinars, the investment expenditure budget, which totals 5.6 billion dinars, and the socialist sector budget, which totals 8.1 billion dinars.

Dr Hammadi said that the new budget has the following five objectives: To combat inflation, reduce foreign debt,

expedite the process of development, secure consumer commodities for citizens, and maintain the combat preparedness of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

In an interview published in the newspaper AL-THAWRAH here today, Dr Hammadi said: We have attempted to reduce expenditure in this budget. The 1990 budget is 3.5 percent lower than the 1989 budget. He added that investment efforts contained in the budget involve new investment projects and important projects needed to end bottlenecks in transporation; oil projects; and projects related to construction, services, education, scientific research, industry, and agriculture. In this new budget, we have attempted to reconcile, to the extent possible, the aforementioned five objectives, taking into account the current circumstances of the country.

Shamir Says Mass Immigration Needs Territories

TA1501064690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jan 90 pp 1, 8

[Report by political correspondent]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday compared the mass immigration of Soviet Jews to "all the miracles that have always rescued the Jewish people," and said that "big immigration requires Israel be big as well."

The flood of immigrants made it imperative that Israel maintain its hold on the territories, he said, as "we need the space to house all the people."

Addressing Likud old-timers in Tel Aviv, Shamir strongly alluded to the demographic argument against holding the territories when he said: "Just when many among us were saying that time is working against us, time has brought us this aliya and has solved everything. In five years, we won't even be able to recognize the country. Everything will change—the people, the way they live—everything will be bigger, stronger."

As a result, said the premier, "The Arabs around us are in a state of disarray and panic...They are shrouded by a feeling of defeat, because they see that the intifada doesn't help—they cannot stop the natural streaming of the Jewish people to their homeland.

"And after all, this is what (the conflict) is all about," he said.

Shamir also lambasted the international and Arab media for its "unyielding smear campaign against Israel and its prime minister."

Singling out a WASHINGTON POST editorial which called him "old and stubborn," Shamir said: "Those who know me know that I am not stubborn, but how can you not be stubborn about the Land of Israel? And I may no longer be young, but I still have the strength to withstand all those who would deprive us of our hope."

The people of Israel, Shamir said, "are used to isolation" and will not yield "at this time of national emergency."

Referring to the Likud Central Committee meeting scheduled for early February, Shamir called on his Likud colleagues to demand that his opponents in the party "step back in line." Without mentioning rebel hardline Ministers Ari'el Sharon, David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i by name, Shamir said that the internal disunity wrought by "some" in the Likud could harm its electoral chances should the unity government disband.

"It's difficult to predict whether all the elements sabotaging the government from within will succeed one day," Shamir conceded. "The government could fall tomorrow. Many may tell us that they can't support a movement that has such internal divisions."

Shamir insisted that since "there are no ideological differences" in the party, the divisions are "without foundation." He added that "every one of us, if he sees another engaging in slander and attacks, must tell him: 'Get back in line, you're doing us all harm.'"

Shamir nonetheless maintained that he did not fear a Labour government. He said the national unity government served the Likud's purpose of "saying no to talks with the PLO and no to a Palestinian state." [passage omitted]

USSR's Vorontsov Protests Shamir Remarks

'Regret' Expressed at Protest

TA3001060290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] This morning Israel expressed its regret over the content and style of the remarks on the issue of immigration and territories made by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov.

Yosi Ahime'ir, the director of the Prime Minister's Bureau, said that remarks are being attributed to Yitzhaq Shamir that he did not make, and that his statement is being misinterpreted. The prime minister said that immigration needs a strong Israel, said Ahime'ir, but Mr Shamir did not specifically tell the newly arrived immigrants to go and settle in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosef 'Amihud told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the remarks made to Arye Levin, Israel's representative in Moscow, are inappropriate in an international atmosphere of cultivating relations based on understanding. He further said that the Soviet message contains numerous inaccuracies regarding Israel's stands, and it is possible that this is a result of the lack of a dialogue between the two countries over many years. The Israeli Government has no policy of telling immigrants where to settle, and each immigrant is free to choose his own place of residence. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Israel hopes that the USSR will soon allow the implementation of the agreements, reached between the foreign ministers of the two countries in Cairo over 1 year ago, on holding meetings of experts from both countries to avoid such misunderstandings in the future.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said last night that the excessive talk on everything connected with the issue of immigration is destructive. Mr Peres told the Alignment Knesset faction that such talk could ruin immigration, has already made housing prices go up speculatively, and might cause a slowdown in Soviet Jewish emigration. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir says that although Mr Peres did not mention the prime minister by name, his remarks were directed at Mr Shamir, among others.

'No Need To Panic' Over Protest

TA3001070190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has said that the Soviet stand reflects an attempt by the Arab world to sabotage Jewish immigration to Israel. Netanyahu is certain that the USSR will reconsider its remarks, and adds: I believe it will not go back on its policy, which is part of the liberalization in the USSR. There is no need to panic, Netanyahu concluded, but the Soviet stand, coupled with similar remarks made in the United States, certainly sets off warning signals in Jerusalem.

Shamir: Reaction to Remarks 'Artificial Storm'

TA3001092890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes that the reactions to his remarks on the issue of a greater Israel and immigration are nothing but an artificial storm which will pass. He made these remarks to Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz. Mr Shamir again clarified his comments and said that a big and strong country is needed for big immigration. He has no intention of directing new immigrants to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and each immigrant will settle wherever he chooses: in Rishon Leziyyon, Ari'el, or anywhere else. [passage omitted]

MAPAM, Shinuy Submit No-Confidence Motions

TA3001080190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The MAPAM [United Workers Party] and Shinuy Knesset factions today submitted no-confidence motions in the wake of the prime minister's remarks concerning immigration and greater Israel. MAPAM says that the statement poses a threat to immigration and is damaging Israel's ties with the United States and the USSR.

Our correspondent in the Knesset, Ze'ev Kohen, reports that the motions may be discussed tomorrow. It is still unclear whether Prime Minister Shamir will appear before the Knesset plenum.

9 Motions Submitted

TA3001113490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Nine Knesset factions submitted no-confidence motions over the immigration and absorption policy. The motions by the left-wing factions were submitted in the wake of the prime minister's remarks on a big Israel which, in their opinion, threaten continued immigration. The right-wing factions, on the other hand, claim that the government is not doing enough to absorb the waves of immigrants.

The Knesset will discuss the motions next Monday [5 February]. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that several factions are demanding that the prime minister reply to the motions himself.

Soviets Seen as Trying To Delay Flight Agreement

TA2901121090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Excerpt] The visiting Soviet delegation have been telling their Israeli hosts that Prime Minister Shamir created a problem when he gave the distinct impression that the Soviet immigrants will be settled in the administered territories. This had brought heavy pressure on Moscow from the Arab world, the delegation said. Only yesterday, at a seminar in Cairo, Yasir 'Arafat appealed to the Soviet Union not to allow the airlifting of Jews to Israel.

However, a highly-placed source in Jerusalem was skeptical about the Soviet argument. He said there are elements in the Soviet establishment who are still oriented to the Arab world. They had seized upon the prime minister's speech and the subsequent Arab pressure as a pretext for delaying the implementation of the agreement between El Al and Aeroflot for direct flights from Moscow to Ben-Gurion Airport. The source said it was unworthy of a great power like the Soviet Union to submit to Arab pressure, and he expressed confidence that the agreement would eventually be implemented once all the pretexts for delaying it had been exhausted. [passage omitted]

Soviets: 'Zero' Chances for Accord

TA3001112990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv—The chances of implementing the air agreement between El Al and Aeroflot are "zero," Georgiy Martirosov, head of the Soviet consular mission in Israel, said last night.

El Al and Aeroflot had concluded an agreement that the Transport Ministry's spokesman said was to have gone into effect on January 1. Israel had ratified it, but the Soviet authorities did not.

Martirosov told THE JERUSALEM POST last night that the Soviet commercial delegation that arrived here this week had come with new ideas about implementing the agreement, though they were not about to finalize it. However, recent Israeli statements "hindered any possibility of moving this process forward," he said.

One such statement was made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir who said, just before the delegation

arrived, that Israel had to be "big" in order to accommodate the big Russian immigration. The comment indicated an Israeli aim to settle Soviet Jews in the territories, Martirosov said.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 30 January reports that Yuliy Orkovnikov, "the head of the visiting Soviet economic delegation," said "in a talk with Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz last night" that "Moscow would very much appreciate it if Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declares that the Soviet immigrants will not settle in the territories." The Soviet envoy said that "such a declaration would remove many obstacles in the trade and transportation ties that are being formed between the USSR and Israel."]

The Russians were also piqued by a JERUSALEM POST report in which ranking Foreign Ministry officials were quoted as saying Israel will act against an attempt in the U.S. Congress to cancel the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which denies the Soviet Union favourable U.S. trade status, unless the Soviets agreed to direct flights for immigrants.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told THE POST last night that Israel would not oppose such legislation, as it was a U.S. domestic issue.

The situation was "complicated before and now it is much more complicated," the Soviet diplomat said.

Martirosov told Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav as much when they met in Jerusalem on Sunday. Qatzav suggested the Soviets differentiate between immigrant and tourist flights. He said the tourist flights were certainly a commercial matter and could benefit both carriers. Tourists now use third carriers to travel between the Soviet Union and Israel.

But Martirosov said such a separation is "not practical." The Soviet Union and Israel have no "tourist relations," and visas for the Soviet Union aren't issued here. "Before putting forward ideas for using planes for tourists, you must have a tourist agreement. And there is no agreement—because there are no diplomatic relations," he stated.

First Ship 'in Decades' Arrives From USSR

TA2901121390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] A ship from the Soviet Union carrying 2,600 crates belonging to Russian Jewish immigrants arrived this morning in Haifa Port. The ship flew a Turkish flag and left from the Port of Kherson in the Black Sea. Officials said this was the first ship to arrive directly from the Soviet Union in decades.

The director of Haifa Port said authorities will try to implement more efficient ways to unload ships to speed up the processing of immigrants and their belongings.

Peres Cites Mubarak on Iraqi-Israeli Peace

JN2901122090 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 90

[From the "Week in 1 Hour" program]

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, has quoted Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as saying radical changes are taking place in the Arab World now regarding peace with Israel, that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has expressed a desire for peace with Israel, and the Jordanian monarch has regretted the administrative disengagement decision between Jordan and the West Bank.

Our correspondent for political affairs, Shlomo Ganor, said Peres refused to disclose today during the weekly session of the Council of Ministers contents of the political proposals he discussed with the Egyptian president. Peres said he will discuss this issue in detail next Wednesday in the Inner Cabinet session.

Sources close to Peres said the proposals he discussed with President Mubarak included the Labor Party's approval of the Palestinian delegation containing deportees and residents in East Jerusalem who own property in the West Bank or Gaza. Peres also agreed the Palestinian delegation will deal with any issue it wants in the speech delivered at the opening session of the dialogue, provided the dialogue later will deal only with elections. The Palestinian delegation can consult with any party it wants.

The sources refused to disclose the nature of the proposals presented by Peres on how and who will announce the names of the Palestinian delegation. The sources told correspondent Ganor this issue is being discussed in Cairo between President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat.

Egypt's Minister Wali 'More Optimistic' on Peace

TA3001112290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by Ben Lynfield]

[Text] Cairo—"I'm even more optimistic than Shim'on Peres that Israel is moving toward peace with the Palestinians," Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali told THE JERUSALEM POST over the weekend.

Wali, who is secretary-general of the ruling National Democratic Party and is considered one of Israel's best friends in the Egyptian government, believes that both the Likud and Labour share a desire to achieve peace, though their approaches differ.

Wali met with Peres during his visit here last week, but said he could not offer any information on the "new ideas" presented by the vice premier to President Husni

Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid concerning U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's framework proposal.

After his talks with Egyptian leaders, Peres described chances for peace with the Palestinians as "more promising than ever before." But 'Abd-al-Majid and Baker gave more cautious assessments.

Wali lauded Peres as a "deep thinker," and also praised Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir as "a wise leader," in an unusual departure from widespread attacks on the prime minister by the official and opposition media here.

"Some Israelis are very enthusiastic in looking forward to peace, while others move step by step. But Israel is definitely moving towrds peace," Wali replied when asked whether Egypt preferred dealing with Labour or the Likud. "Perhaps Israelis themselves can't see that they are heading towards peace," he continued. "But I have the perspective of an outsider and I am 100 percent convinced of it."

Wali's optimism stems from a "macro-level" analysis of Israeli policy and Israeli-Egyptian ties, he said, rather than from perceptions of any new developments at the "micro-level" regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation to proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo and the agenda of those talks.

"Those are minor things," he said. "The important thing is that the stream (of Israeli politics) is moving towards peace.

"Look how Israel is transforming some of its armaments plants into civilian industries," he said. "This foreshadows peace."

The continued visits to Egypt by large numbers of Israeli tourists indicate that "a certain stability" in relations exists regardless of external shocks like the intifadah, Wali added.

"The intifadah has not destabilized relations," he insisted. "Egyptian-Israeli relations are better than they have ever been."

In agriculture, Egypt is benefiting from Israeli help in several areas, including irrigation methods, Wali noted. Egypt recently increased the number of people it sends on training programmes to Israel, he added.

Asked to comment on the effect of the overthrow of dictatorships in Eastern Europe on Middle Eastern governments and regimes, Wali predicted that Egypt and Israel would be affected less by such changes than other countries in the region.

"This is because Israel and Egypt moved very early towards peace, economic reform and democracy," he explained. "Israel is a democracy and Egypt also has parties and a democracy, sometimes with strong criticism of its top leaders."

First Syrian MiG-23 Test Run 'Successful'

TA2901152390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The first test flight of the Syrian MiG-23, whose pilot landed in Israel 4 months ago, was completed successfully this afternoon. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports the plane was flown for more than 1 hour by an Air Force test pilot. The Air Force has been studying its systems with the help of Syrian pilot 'Adil Basim.

A senior Air Force officer said after the test flight the MiG-23 still is considered the backbone of the Syrian Air Force, and that presence in Israel will reduce the element of surprise.

'Significant Decline' in Soviet Advisers in Syria

TA2901211590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Soviet involvement in the Middle East continues to decline, sources in Israel said, but stressed that the USSR last year continued to be the chief element in the arms race, supplying arms to many Middle East countries.

During Gorbachev's 5-year rule, however, there has been a decline in arms supplies to Middle East countries. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that there has also been a significant decline in the number of Soviet experts, with their number dropping from 4,000 to 2,000 in Syria.

SLA's Lahd Met 'Awn in Beirut 'Last Week'

TA2901183590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] South Lebanese Army commander General Antoine Lahd visited Beirut last week and had talks with Christian commander Gen Michel 'Awn. Sources in Beirut report that Lahd also met with other Christian leaders and was asked to act as a mediator between the Lebanese Christian community and Israel.

Two Tehiya MK's Resign; Replacements Named

TA2901121590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Two members of the Tehiya faction are resigning from the Knesset today; Knesset Members [MK's] Yuval Ne'eman and Eli'ezer Waldman will be replaced by Gershon Shafat and Elyaqim Ha'etzni. The two new members will enter the Knesset formally on Wednesday.

Commission To View VOA Post Impact on IDF

TA2901123490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] A commission will review the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] deployment in the Negev and the impact of the proposed VOA relay station on the local environment, on

behalf of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Knesset Member Yehuda Sagi will head the committee, which will complete its work within 5 months.

Increasing criticism has been leveled recently against the plan to construct a VOA relay station in the 'Arava. It was prompted by the IDF's contention the transmitters will interfere with aircraft activities, thus creating a need for alternative training grounds, which will devastate vital nature reserves. In addition, the claim was made that with the advent of recent changes in East Europe, the relay station has become less vital.

Syria's Al-Zu'bi Arrives for Joint Meetings

JN2901102990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi arrived in Amman today to lead the Syrian side to the meetings of the higher Jordanian-Syrian joint committee due to begin today. He was received by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the ministers.

In an arrival statement, al-Zu'bi said that the march of cooperation between our countries comes within the framework of the honest fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries on the path of coordination and cooperation in all fields, particularly the economic and trade fields, in order to achieve integration between the two countries and to attain the lofty objectives laid down by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He expressed hope that the talks between the two sides will produce positive results that would bolster the work of the joint committee. He affirmed that strengthening relations between Jordan and Syria is an important step and link on the path of Arab solidarity and common Arab action to confront the Israeli aggression which always aims at expansion at the expense of Arab territory.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran made a statement in which he welcomed the Syrian prime minister and the accompanying delegation. He stressed that the two sides will discuss all economic and political issues on both the bilateral and Arab levels.

With regard to the al-Wahdah Dam, Badran asserted that cooperation between the Syrian and Jordanian sides is continuing. He added that we will shortly move to the financing councils and funds.

King Husayn Receives Al-Zu'bi

JN2901172090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Syrian members of the higher Jordanian-Syrian joint committee at al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Jordanian members of the committee attended the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Mr al-Zu'bi conveyed His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings and appreciation for his brother His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people.

Al-Zu'bi and Badran briefed his majesty on the positive benefits of the higher joint committee, especially the consolidation of Arab cooperation and solidarity, the study of challenges, threats, and dangers to the Arab nation, and the emphasis on bilateral action and economic integration on behalf of the two fraternal countries. The meeting, which included a working luncheon hosted by his majesty, was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Meanwhile, the meetings of the higher Jordanian-Syrian joint committee were resumed at the Prime Ministry this evening. Our correspondent there has more details:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The second round of Jordanian-Syrian talks began a short time ago at the Prime Ministry. The delegations continued to discuss topics raised during the first round this morning. The talks center on issues of common concern and on developing economic, trade, agricultural, transport, communications, and energy cooperation. The delegations also discussed the topic of joint companies. The Jordanian side to the talks is headed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Syrian side by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Senior Jordanian and Syrian officials are attending.

The first round of talks was held at the Prime Ministry this morning. Badran and al-Zu'bi exchanged welcoming speeches and expressed hope that the directives of His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on strengthening the relations of the two fraternal countries in every field would be translated into action.

Al-Qasim Says Negotiations With Israel Rejected

JN2501110690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jan 90 pp 1, 14

[Text] Cairo (QNA)—Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated that the so-called Jordanian option or alternative homeland proposed by Israel to escape its confrontation with the Palestinian rights and territory does not exist.

In a statement to the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published in its Friday issue, Al-Qasim said Jordan cannot accept the principle of negotiations with Israel, and if Israel wants peace, the only way is to conduct negotiations with the PLO. Israel has to recognize the Palestinians' right to establish their state on the land of Palestine within a political equation to resolve the conflict—an equation based on its withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

Marwan al-Qasim also affirmed that Israel will not succeed in holding unilateral elections in the West Bank and Gaza. He added that Israel failed to hold these elections in the West Bank in the 1970's. This process cannot be implemented seriously if there is no understanding of the objective of the elections and the post-election stage.

On the need to clear the atmosphere between Syria and the PLO, al-Qasim said that PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi told him that he will visit Damascus soon. He expressed hope that Syria will welcome Qaddumi's visit to remove impurities in the relations between the two sides and to strengthen Arab solidarity.

With regard to resolving differences between Syria and Iraq, the Jordanian foreign minister said: We as Arab

countries must work to end the tension between the two sides. He noted within this framework the problem of the Euphrates water faced by the two countries. He affirmed the need for a kind of practical solidarity based on the common Arab interests within the framework of pan-Arab security.

Syria-based Groups Reportedly Bring Missiles In

PM3001165790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jan 90 p2

[Layla Dib report: "Jordanian Sources Confirm Infiltration From Syria"]

[Text] Amman—Official Jordanian sources have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, in infiltration operations, certain groups which are in Syria have brought some Katyusha rockets into Jordanian territory to be used against Israeli positions across Jordan and the Red Sea.

The sources said that the aim was to put Jordan at odds with Israel, which had taken provocative action by opening fire across the Jordan River on a Jordanian soldier who had left his position last month. An Israeli Army spokesman said at the time that his forces shot and killed the Jordanian soldier but the Jordanian authorities were unable to confirm that.

The sources also said that members of the Islamic Jihad Organization or of some Palestinian dissident factions stationed in Damascus are the ones which infiltrate the Jordanian borders and open fire in the direction of Israel.

House Speaker Leaves for Baghdad ACC Meetings

JN3001131090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpt] House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar left for Baghdad today to lead Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the parliamentary committee emanating from the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Lifts Ban on Jordanian Papers

NC2501233990 Paris AFP in English 1636 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Amman, Jan 25 (AFP)—Kuwait has lifted a ban on the sale of two Jordanian newspapers, the editors of the Arabic language AL-RA'Y and AL-DUSTUR announced here Thursday.

Management at both newspapers said Tuesday the publications were barred from entering Kuwait, amid demonstrations there for the reinstatement of parliament, which was suspended in 1986.

AL-RA'Y and AL-DUSTUR had been barred from Kuwait for "administrative" purposes, the editors added.

But one Jordanian journalist said a recent relaxation in press restrictions here had led to widespread coverage of Jordanian parliamentary affairs, "which could influence public opinion in Kuwait."

Palestinian Front Leaders To Visit 'Soon'

JN2801133690 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 26 Jan 90 p 1

[By Rabab Mangu]

[Excerpt] Amman—Well-informed diplomatic sources in Amman have told AL-QABAS that heads of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, will soon pay a visit to Jordan.

These sources said that the PFLP is about to announce that its Jordanian wing will be transformed into a party. The DFLP has already taken such a step. [passage omitted]

Badran Denies Plans To Scrap Information Ministry

JN1501083590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 90 pp 1, 12

[By Sulayman al-Barmawi]

[Excerpt] Amman—Prime Minister Mudar Badran has categorically denied that the government intends to or thinks of abolishing the Ministry of Information.

During a meeting in his office yesterday with the head and members of the Press Association, Badran affirmed that such allegations propagated by certain quarters are baseless and eventually serve nobody but the enemies of the homeland and the people.

The prime minister also denied reports disseminated by a foreign news organ on the government's intention to turn some official media organs into companies.

He affirmed that these are national establishments and aimed to serve the public without discrimination. He said the role of these establishments will be expanded to include not only serving the official orientations of the government and the state, but also to serve the public and air their issues and problems honestly and objectively.

The prime minister also announced the imminent birth of the first "Council for National Orientation" whose draft law will be finalized soon. Under the articles of this law, media guidance and orientation policies will be supervised and implemented on a national level to reflect the true public image and Jordan's shining image before the world.

This council will be administered by competent Jordanians representing various political, media, and press authorities, including the Press Association. [passage omitted]

'Izz Al-Din Rejects Report

JN1501175490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Jordan has described as untrue reports that it had abolished the Ministry of Information. In an interview with the Saudi Daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the minister of information denied that there is an intention to cancel the ministry at this particular stage. But Mr Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din said there is a change of his department's perspective of issues. Mr 'Izz al-Din said the Ministry of Information is now reevaluating its work in a way to serve the coming stage.

Fadlallah Denounces Soviet Action in Azerbaijan

NC2601201490 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has expressed his regret over the internecine fighting between brothers in the Amal Movement and Hizballah. He called on all Muslims to foil the plots concocted by global arrogance against Muslims.

In his Friday sermon at the Imam al-Rida Mosque in Beirut today, Fadlallah denounced the Soviet military actions against the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan. He said he believed these actions to result from the big powers' panic and fear of the Muslim awakening in the world. He said: The Soviet Union has resorted to force to confront the Muslims of Azerbaijan although its confrontations with non-Muslims have not been characterized by violence. This indicates that the Soviet union is afraid of Islamic uprisings by the Muslim people. He said: Just as the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people angered the Zionists and America, with both sparing no effort to quell it, so the uprisings in the Soviet Union, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Turkey indicate an international agreement to confront Islam.

Phalangist Party Approves Sa'adah Resignation

NC2901155390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Phalangist Party Political Bureau has announced that it has approved Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah's resignation from the West Beirut government.

Lawyer Munir al-Haj [Phalangist Party deputy leader] held a news conference after a lengthy meeting of the political bureau which began at 1100 today and was followed by another meeting at 1400. Al-Haj announced that the Phalangist Party Political Bureau had agreed that Dr Sa'adah's will submit his resignation from the al-Huss government and that the resignation letter will be forwarded this very day.

Al-Haj disclosed that the meetings dealt with media issues, the Lebanese-Syrian summit, and Dr Sa'adah's apology for not participating in the al-Huss goverment. [passage omitted]

'Awn Threatens To Take 'Negative Measures'

NC3001132190 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has decided to respond in kind to the measures taken by al-Hirawi's group. Should the war of starvation continue, Gen 'Awn threatened, he could apply some negative measures of his own, the least of which would be an electricity blackout. 'Awn also threatened to stop supplying the occupied [West Beirut] area with water, flour, gas, and other necessities.

Cuts Off Water Supplies

NC3001125490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has carried out his threats and cut off drinking water supplies to [West] Beirut to increase the Lebanese people's misery and to serve his ambitions. He feels no responsibility to safeguard the people's essential needs and to avoid harming them. Such measures are unjustifiable.

Depriving citizens of water is part one of a plan General 'Awn has promised to implement to confront the legal government with all illegal and inhuman means. This measure is to be followed by cutting off electricity, which will engulf West Beirut in total darkness.

After this measure was implemented by suspending the pumping of water from the al-Dubayyah station [in East Beirut] at 1800 yesterday, a delegation from the Beirut Water Authority headed by Eng 'Abd-al-Rahman Ghaziri met this morning with Nasir Nasrallah, director of the office of hydroelectric resources. The delegation then went to the temporary premises of the president to review the subject with the cabinet and to brief the president, the prime minister, and the minister of hydroelectric resources on this vital subject affecting the life of the citizenry.

Official sources have stated that the cabinet will adopt certain measures today to ease this crisis. A committee will be formed to control the situation. The water cutoff may last for a long time; therefore, citizens are asked to take precautions and to economize in using water.

Lebanese Forces, Army Clash in West, East Beirut

3 Wounded by Sniper Fire

NC2901131890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tension reigned this morning along the combat lines of Beirut and its Southern Suburb as a result of sniper fire from al-Yarzah ['Awn] cliques. Three children were wounded in the al-Ruways area when the car they were riding in to school came under sniper fire. They are Muhammad al-Hujr, age 10; Mahmud al-Hujr, age 3 1/2; and Mahmud Qir'awni, age 3 1/2. They were taken to al-Sahil Hospital.

More on Clashes

NC2901162790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] General 'Awn's forces created tension on the traditional contact lines in Beirut this afternoon. Clashes involving the use of various types of weapons have been raging on the al-Kafa'at, al-Murayjah, and Southern Suburb combat lines since 1700 today. At the same time, sniper fire is being directed from the eastern area toward the residential quarters on the other side.

In the mountain area, meanwhile, clashes in which machineguns and rockets are being used have been taking place on the Suq al-Gharb line since 1700.

Earlier in the day, at 1500, the Ra's al-Nab', Sodeco, and Primo lines in Beirut were the scene of similar clashes.

East Beirut Fired Upon

NC3001135190 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] In the security domain, the Lebanese Army positions on the Sodeco and Primo lines [in Beirut] came under machinegun and rocket fire before noon today. The fire originated from the areas under Syrian occupation in West Beirut.

VOM Reports Fighting

NC3001101890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tension prevails in certain quarters of the eastern area, particularly al-Karantina in the wake of a clash between Lebanese Forces members and army personnel, and the kidnapping of an army soldier by the Lebanese Forces. According to reports from the eastern area, shopkeepers have closed their shops for fear that the fighting will escalate. In the meantime, the army is surrounding the area.

VOL Reports Shooting

NC3001140190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] According to a report which has just been received, shooting has been taking place in the al-Tahwitah area, in Furn al- Shubbak district [in the eastern area]. The security forces closed all roads between the Chevrolet and al-'Adliyah traffic circles, causing traffic jams.

Israeli, Militia Forces Shell Southern Village

NC2901193590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] According to reports from the south, tanks of the Israeli enemy and the agent militia fired about 40 shells at Bra'shit at 1530 today. The shelling caused the destruction of many houses in the village, but no casualties.

In a statement it issued today, the Amal Movement's operations room in the south said that Bra'shit has been the target of a joint Israeli-Lahdist attack since this morning following the operations carried out by resistance fighters in the occupied border strip area. The artillery and tank shelling was accompanied by threats to the citizens over loudspeakers that the village would be razed.

The statement added: Amal warns the enemy that it will retaliate appropriately and severely to defend our land and kinsmen. The Movement, which has offered its most important leaders as martyrs for the liberation of the south, will not keep silent in the face of such actions. It promises our kinfolk in Bra'shit and in the entire south that it is alert to all attacks, from whatever direction, against the south.

Israel Sends Reinforcements to Security Zone

NC3001075890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Israeli occupation forces sent new reinforcements to the occupied border zone yesterday, the 3d day a state of alert has been in effect.

According to security reports from the border zone, Israeli military patrols continued their activity yesterday in the security zone and on the road adjacent to the barbed wire fence between occupied Palestine and Lebanon.

Fifteen vehicles, including Merkava tanks, were seen taking positions on al-Shurayqah Hill, and 15 armored vehicles were seen entering the Bint Jubayl district to take up positions in the Saff al-Hawa barracks.

SLA Threatens To Kill Norwegian UN Contingent

NC2901180990 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Jan 29 (AFP)—Israeli-backed militiamen of South Lebanon Army (SLA) threatened Monday to kill Norwegian soldiers from the United Nations peacekeeping force in the region, security sources said.

Four SLA fighters delivered a verbal threat to "kill all the Norwegian soldiers" after driving up to a checkpoint at Ibil al-Saqy, base of the Norwegian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The Norwegian contingent, deployed in the eastern sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, which is patrolled by Israeli troops and SLA militiamen, was immediately placed on a state of alert.

Reinforcements were also sent from UNIFIL headquarters 50 kilometres (30 miles) to the west al-Naqurah, the security sources said, while UNIFIL contacted the Israeli Army to defuse the situation.

A Norwegian soldier was killed by the SLA on November 30, two weeks after UNIFIL troops shot dead an SLA militiaman trying to force his way through a checkpoint at Ibil al-Saqy.

Israeli Warplanes Break Sound Barrier

NC2901121290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while conducting sorties in Lebanese airspace at 1310 today.

Israeli Air Sorties Reported Over South

NC3001072290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0720 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon, the Palestinian camps, and Iqlim al-Tuffah at 0830 today.

'Awn Notes U.S. Change to 'Positive Positions'

NC2601214190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] General 'Awn has noted signs of a change in U.S. foreign policy at the highest levels and that the positive positions the United States has begun to take are good omens for a change. He was addressing student delegations at B'abda Palace who support his policy. He said to them: Your strong voices have certainly begun to produce results.

Iranian Embassy Condemns Bomb Explosion

LD2901144190 Tehran IRNA in English 1333 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 29, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Sunday strongly condemned Saturday's [27 January] bomb explosion near the residence of the vice-speaker of the Lebanese Supreme Shiite Assembly, Shaykh Muhammad Madhi Shams al-Din.

An announcement issued by the embassy in this connection referred to the incident as "a plot hatched by the Zionists to sow discord among Muslims. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Meanwhile, Mohammad Javad Zamanian in charge of the Iranian Embassy here in a meeting with Shaykh Shams al-Din Sunday, expressed pleasure that the plot did not work.

Some 25 kgs of explosives planted in a car went off near Shaykh Shams al-Din's residence Saturday which caused material damage but no casualties.

Resistance Radio Views Syrian-Iranian Relations

NC1701110490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Hizballah has warned the Amal Movement to stop what it described as the movement's bestial practices against sympathizers with the Islamic revolution, before it's too late. Hizballah has issued a statement referring to provocations by the movement and accusing its leader Minister Nabih Birri of having personally liquidated 3 strugglers.

Quoting Arab diplomatic sources in Tunis, AFP reported that Syria has pledged in a secret clause annexed to the al-Ta'if agreement to reduce the Iranian influence in Lebanon by preventing the arrival of reinforcements and ammunition to the Iranian revolution guards in Lebanon. According to the same sources, Syria agreed to impose a sea, air, and land blockade on the Iranian forces. They added that Tehran attempted to send arms and ammunition to the revolution guards via Syria in order to test what is termed Damascus' real intentions. Syria did not permit the entry of these arms and ammunition, which were shipped back to their place of origin.

The same sources said that 160 Iranian guards tried to come to Lebanon but were stopped by Syria. However, they managed to arrive in the south later by using the Cyprus port of Larnaca to go to al-Jiyah port.

AFP added that this development in Syrian-Iranian relations prompted Iran to declare the battle of the south between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. It went on to say that this battle is of great significance because Syria has no presence in south Lebanon and it maintains that the al-Ta'if agreement has charged the Amal Movement with responsibility for security in the south.

The same sources said it is clear that Yasir 'Arafat, whose supporters deployed in Iqlim al-Tuffah, prefers Syria to Iran. AFP said that Damascus has conveyed a message to 'Arafat supporting the measures he has adopted in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Group Claims Attack on Syrians in Tripoli

NC2401135490 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] A commando unit from the Sunnite Liberation Movement attacked a Syrian enemy truck in the al-Zahiriyah area of Tripoli with rockets and machineguns on the night of 22-23 January. The attack destroyed the truck, killed 7 Syrian soldiers, and wounded 3 others. The Sunnite Liberation Movement has released the following statement:

O honest people of Lebanon and its bright hope: It is a disgrace to remain silent about the shamelessness of the head of the Syrian agents, traitor Ilyas al-Hirawi, and the rest of the Ablah group. To retaliate for his impudence in laying a wreath on the tombs of those who destroyed Lebanon, killed our people, detained our youths, and raped our women and to retaliate for this savagery, a commando unit from the Sunnite Liberation Movement attacked a Syrian enemy truck in the al-Zahiriyah quarter of Tripoli with rockets and machineguns on the night of 22-23 January. It destroyed the truck, killed 7 Syrian enemy soldiers, and wounded 3 others.

As usual, several homes were raided and several people arrested in the area immediately after the attack. The Sunnite Liberation Movement pledges to honest Lebanese that it will continue to pursue the Syrian enemy until all Lebanese territory is liberated. It calls on honest Muslims to unify and resist the Syrian occupation.

Regular Beirut-al-Qulay'at Flights Begin 1 Feb

NC2901152590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] An aircraft of the Middle East Airlines Company today made a test flight between Beirut International and al-Qulay'at [in northern Lebanon] airports prior to the start of regular direct flights between the two airports on 1 February.

Ways To Implement Beirut Security Plan Discussed

JN2801114090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Jan 90

[The press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Supporting the Legitimate Government Is a Pressing Demand," the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms in its editorial today that since the return to Beirut by President al-Hirawi at the end of his friendly and constructive talks with leader Al-Asad in Damascus, the Lebanese capital has been witnessing further intensive political activity designed to transform the results of the talks into acts and deeds that would reflect positively on the interests of our people in fraternal Lebanon on various levels.

AL-BA'TH adds: The prudent and carefully considered measures taken by the legitimate government and the steps that it will take to serve the interests of the homeland and its sons are bound to enjoy the support of the Arabs and the world, considering that the national reconciliation document has been endorsed and that there is a need to implement it.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The legitimate government deserves Arab and international support. It also has the right to secure first and foremost the support of fraternal Syria. This support was unreservedly affirmed by leader Al-Asad, by virtue of the fraternal ties and common history and fate binding the two countries. No tyrannical force whatsover can ever undo these ties.

Commenting on the same issue, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH asserts in one of its commentaries that the legitimate Lebanese government proceeds in its national endeavors to achieve Lebanese accord and unity from sound foundations based on the pursuit of an Arab solution. The paper adds: That is why President Al-Hirawi visited Damascus and discussed with its leader security plans designed to ensure Lebanon's unity. President Al-Hirawi returned to Beirut to translate the plan pertaining to the security of Beirut and Beirut airport into reality. The legitimate Lebanese government will expand the security plan to allow for its implementation in greater Beirut and also for ending the aberrant situation in east Beirut.

AL-THAWRAH points out that the gravity of the tasks entrusted to the legitimate Lebanese government with regard to returning the country's situation to normal and reconstructing the homeland ravaged by war over the past 15 years requires the concerted efforts of all the Lebanese and of their national and progressive parties.

The paper adds: Lebanon needs the efforts of all of its sons to help reconstruct it and preserve its Arab identity.

Under the headline "The Dimensions of the Beirut Security Plan," the newspaper TISHRIN indicates in one of its commentaries that the readiness of the legitimate Lebanese government to implement a security plan covering Beirut and its suburbs constitutes a framework for extending the authority of the state represented by the army and the internal security force. The paper adds: It goes without saying that measures to realize this legitimate ambition of the national reconciliation government would not have been taken were it not for the great success of the Lebanese-Syrian summit, the first of its kind held between Presidents Al-Asad and Al-Hirawi, to discuss ways of implementing the al-Ta'if agreement and surmounting the difficulties obstructing its implementation.

TISHRIN affirms that the fact that the security plan for Beirut and its suburbs was proposed after the Lebanese-Syrian summit lends this plan a credibility that has never been enjoyed by any other, simply because this highlights Syria's determination to make all possible efforts to render the endeavors of the legitimate government in this regard a success. The paper adds: This confirms the special relationship existing between the one people in the two fraternal countries—leadership and people. This also shows that this plan will serve as an oil slick [as heard] that will soon expand to cover the entire Lebanese soil as a result of the concerted and sincere efforts by all nationalist Lebanese forces and also due to firm and unlimited Syrian support. This was unequivocally and unmistakably affirmed by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad during the joint news statements made to the Lebanese media delegation that accompanied President Al-Hirawi on his Damascus visit.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Sulayman Franjiyah

JN2901162290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Today at 1300, President Hafiz al-Asad received President Sulayman Franjiyah, former president of the Republic of Lebanon, who arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit. Franjiyah was received at the Damascus northern entrance by Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs.

In a statement to SANA, Franjiyah hoped that the security plan would be successfully implemented in western Beirut, because it is important to try everything to salvage Lebanon, as life there has become difficult. He said every Lebanese official must work for the restoration of normal life in Lebanon and we will not ask for more. Franjiyah added: The security plan cannot be implemented without fraternal Syria; it is through Syria's continuous assistance and support that we can achieve this.

Al-Shar' Receives U.S. Senators Specter, Shelby

JN1401141490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received today U.S. Senators Arlen Specter and Richard Shelby. Assistant Foreign Minister Diyaullah al-Fattal and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus attended.

The meeting dealt with relations between Syria and the United States and prospects for developing them for the benefit of the two countries. The meeting also dealt with the situation in Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and international developments.

Jordan's Industry, Trade Minister Visits

JN2001131090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0805 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Damascus, 20 Jan (SANA)—Ziyad Fariz, Jordanian minister of industry and trade, and his delegation arrived in Damascus from Amman yesterday on a visit to Syria of several days.

In a statement here, Fariz said that his visit is aimed at consolidating and promoting the economic, trade, and industrial cooperation between the two sister countries.

He added that during the visit, issues pertaining to the higher Syrian-Jordanian joint committee will be discussed. He said talks will also deal with preparations for the next meetings in Amman during which bilateral economic, agricultural, and industrial cooperation, as well as the joint companies will be discussed.

Talks will be held concerning the meetings of the general assembly of the Syrian-Jordanian Industrial Company and how to bolster bilateral economic and industrial cooperation.

Received by Prime Minister

JN2001214890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 20 jan 90

[Text] Damascus—Today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Ziyad Fariz, Jordanian minister of industry and trade. The meeting was attended by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Muhammad al-Sharif, governor of the Central Bank of Syria; and Nayif al-Hadid, Jordan's ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the Jordanian minister of industry and trade conveyed greetings from Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran to Al-Zu'bi, who asked the minister to convey similar greetings to Badran.

The meeting dealt with the steps implemented in the march of economic cooperation and integration between Syria and Jordan, and assessed the results achieved in different economic and trade fields on the level of joint ventures and agreements which are being executed.

The prime minister was briefed on the outcome of the Jordanian minister's talks in Damascus and stressed the importance of these talks to improve the steps of economic coordination and integration.

The meeting also dealt with a number of issues related to improving the march of cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Information Minister Leaves for Oman Visit

JN2601165090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman left for Muscat this afternoon leading a delegation on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman. The visit comes in response to an invitation by Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas.

Arrives 26 Jan

JN2601213490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Jan

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman arrived in Muscat this evening, leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Oman.

Upon arrival, the minister told the OMAN NEWS AGENCY that his visit to the Sultanate came in response to an invitation by Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas. The two, he said, will discuss how to develop ties in the information field. The visit, added Salman, should help further brotherly bilateral relations.

The Omani information minister, ministry officials, and the Syrian ambassador in Muscat greeted Salman on arrival.

Calls on Sultan of Oman

JN2901212290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Muscat—This evening, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received Information Minister Muhammad Salman, presently visiting the Sultanate of Oman. They discussed Arab and international developments and ways to boost cooperation. Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas and the Syrian ambassador in Muscat were present at the meeting.

98 kg of Hashish Seized on Homs-Damascus Highway

JN2801183490 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 23 Jan 90 P 4

[By Tamim Duwayhi]

[Summary] Last Thursday [25 January], customs police seized 98.4 kg of hashish, which was hidden in a minibus on the Homs-Damascus highway. The value of the hashish seized was estimated at 500,000 Syrian pounds.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Official Condemns U.S.-USSR Accord

BK2901124090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1220 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 29 (AFP)—Moscow and Washington have reached an understanding that could result in a drastic change in their Afghan policies, top resistance sources said here Monday.

"The Soviet Union has reached an understanding with the United States to stop shipment of arms to Kabul and dump (President) Najibullah as a face-saving formula" to resolve the Afghan war, a senior official in the mujahidin's Afghan Interim Government (AIG) said.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker are to meet in Moscow February 7-8 for talks on regional and international issues.

The official described the understanding as "a marriage of convenience," and added that Moscow, "completely bogged down in its internal discord and embarrassed with dramatic changes in East Europe, needs the U.S. support."

"Washington also needs the Soviet Union because of its policies in Cuba, Panama and Nicaragua," said the official, who asked to remain anonymous.

In view of this "mutual interest," he said the United States was also likely to agree to a "negative symmetry" by stopping military supplies to the mujahidin and channeling the flow of aid to homeless Afghans in refugee camps.

Under the Geneva accord of April 1988, Moscow and Washington agreed to continue supplying arms to their respective clients.

The official warned that a "possible u-turn in the U.S. and U.S.S.R. policy on Afghanistan would have negative repercussions, as Afghans would not submit to the superpowers' deal."

But Zabihullah Mojaddedi an AIG minister, said that "the negative symettry would mean nothing. It is too late now."

He said "there was no symmetry" between the U.S. arms to mujahidin and the heavy weaponry Moscow shipped to Kabul, which he said had "already tilted the balance" in favour of the Najibullah regime.

Mr. Mojaddedi, who is also the son of AIG President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, said the "mujahidin would never agree to a superpower deal and will never forego their right to form an Islamic government of their choice."

"Aid or no aid, we will continue our struggle," said Mr. Mojaddadei, who is also the leader of the moderate Afghan National Liberation Front.

"It is our war and we will fight until victory," he added.

Ministry Protests Pakistani Airspace Violation

LD2901180890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The Department of Information and Publication of the Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that this afternoon the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The following points were conveyed to him by the acting head of the First Political Department:

The relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan have received reliable information that two Pakistani Hunter aircraft violated the Republic of Afghanistan airspace on 20 January at 0800 from the direction of Hamun-e port. After 2 minutes of conducting a reconaissance flight at an altitude of 500 meters over the security posts of the Republic of Afghanistan in the region of (Dorghel), Vakhan district, the aircraft left the region and entered Pakistani territory.

The Republic of Afghanistan Foreign Affairs Ministry strongly protests such aggressive actions against Republic of Afghanistan airspace by the Pakistani Air Force. These actions are flagrant violations of international relations and principles and the Geneva Accords. It demands from the relevant authorities of that country to avoid repeating such actions in the future. Naturally, if such actions are repeated, the responsibility for all their consequences will rest on the Pakistani Government.

Mujahidin Kill 44 Soldiers in 2 Operations

BK3001022490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that bloody fighting is going on between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime forces in different parts of the country. The news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] has reported that mujahidin launched a major operation in Balkh Province, killing 30 Kabul forces and capturing 19. Reports say that they attacked a convoy carrying supplies for Kabul regime forces in Pravan Province and killed 14 soldiers on the major highway between Kabul and Charikar. The mujahidin attacked a military battalion and destroyed six vehicles, including three loaded with arms and ammunition.

Gunmen Slay Leftist Rebel Leader in Peshawar

BK3001002490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1802 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 29 (AFP)—The leader of a leftist Afghan rebel group was killed by unidentified gunmen here over the weekend, police said Monday [29 January].

Abdul Qayyum Rahbar, 50, leader of the Pro-Maoist Sazman-e Azadibakhsh-e Mardam-e Afghanistan (SAMA, or People's Liberation Organization of Afghanistan), was killed late Saturday by unknown gunmen who fired from a jeep, also wounding one of his friends, sources said.

He was to return Sunday to West Germany where he was based, they said.

Resistance sources said SAMA was reportedly working underground against the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah in Kabul.

No arrests were made, but police were investigating.

His elder brother, Majid Kalakani, the founder of SAMA, was executed in 1980 by the Kabul regime for assassinating several Afghan officials, the resistance sources said.

Mr. Qayyum Rahbar was also known by the name Abdul Qayyum Kalakani, taken from the village of his birth, Kalakan, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) north of Kabul.

Bangladesh

Ershad Leaves for Saudi Arabia Enroute to U.S.

BK2701131690 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Excerpt] President Ershad left Dhaka Saturday [27 January] afternoon for Saudi Arabia on his way to the United States. In Saudi Arabia, President Ershad will perform umrah [minor pilgrimage] in holy Mecca. [passage omitted]

India

Prime Minister on Bofors Gun Deal, Kashmir

BK2901033590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that his government will soon bring to book the middlemen involved in the Bofors gun deal. Talking to newsmen at Raj Bhavan [governor's residence] in Nagpur yesterday, Mr Singh accused the former Congress-I government of inaction in the matter and said no FIR [First Information Report] was filed even 3 years after the scandal surfaced. He said the Swiss authorities have responded quickly to India's request for freezing some bank accounts involved in the deal.

On the Jammu and Kashmir situation, the prime minister said that the nation's unity and integrity cannot be compromised. He described his recent meeting with the former chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, as his government's initiative to solve the Kashmir problem by cutting across party lines eliciting support from all quarters. He said all steps are being taken to restore normalcy and the confidence of the people.

The prime minister ruled out the possibility of his party having any truck with the Congress-I for the survival of the National Front government. Mr Singh asserted that his party would not have alliance whatsoever with the Shiv Sena [the Hindu fundamentalist party] in the assembly poll in Maharashtra. The prime minister said that his government is committed to implementing the Madal Commission report on the backward classes.

In reply to a question, Mr Singh expressed himself against the political appointments of governors and said it should be done on merit.

Reportage on Moslem Militant Uprising in Kashmir

Singh Lauds Armed Forces

BK2801161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has declared that the country will effectively meet any threat to its unity and integrity. He was addressing a rally of farmers and farm laborers in Nagpur today. In an apparent reference to activities of secessionist forces with support from across the border, he said those who think they can carry out evil designs are mistaken. The 800 million people of India would unitedly defeat their designs. They did it in the past and they could certainly do it in the future, Mr Singh added.

Lauding the services of the armed force, the prime minister said the nation is proud of them.

Referring to the problems of farmers, he said his government is committed to waiving of crop loans of deserving small and marginal farmers. Mr Singh also announced that rice would not be imported as there was adequate production of rice within the country.

General Ready for Challenge

BK3001111290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1043 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 30 (AFP)—India's army chief declared Tuesday [30 January] that his troops were prepared for "any challenge" and would not permit any violation of Kashmir's border with Pakistan.

General V.N. Sharma told reporters here that attempts by Pakistani-based Kashmir leaders to send commandos to India's Kashmir State in support of Moslem militants would be repulsed.

"If they dare it, they will face a hot reception," he said, speaking at a military ceremony to judge the best marching contingent in this year's army day parade.

Gen. Sharma, who assumed office in 1988, added that the army was "prepared to face any challenge."

He described as "very serious" the situation in Kashmir, where New Delhi says Pakistan is backing a violent campaign by Moslem militants to secede from the Indian union. Islamabad has refuted the charge. Gen. Sharma's comments came nine days after a veteran Kashmiri leader in Pakistan was quoted as saying that he planned to raise a commando force to help Moslem militants in India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

Sardar Mohamad Ibrahim told a public gathering in the town of Pallandari, near Pakistan-held Kashmir's border with India, that he would lead a commando force "to rescue the Kashmiri brethren if India did not stop atrocities."

The reference was to a police crackdown on Kashmir separatists in which more than 100 people have died since the start of January.

Gen. Sharma added that the Indian Army, the world's fourth largest, was prepared to "meet such threats and teach the violators of our border a lesson."

Asked about his proposed visit to India's northeast Wednesday [24 January], he said: "I am going to the northeast while there is trouble in the country's northern and western sectors. But this should indicate to you that the situation is fully under our control."

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence in 1947, two of them over Kashmir, the northern one-third of which is held by Islamabad.

The last war in December 1971 led to the break of then East Pakistan and its emergence as the independent nation of Bangladesh. More than 93,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered to the Indian army then.

On Sunday, former Indian External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said that New Delhi's relations with Pakistan had taken the worst beating since the 1971 war.

Mr. Vajpayee also said that India would give "a befitting reply" if Islamabad launched another war with New Delhi over the disputed Kashmir region.

Mr. Vajpayee is a leader of the rightist Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], the third largest group in parliament which supports India's new government along with the communists.

Some 1,000 BJP activists demonstrated outside the Pakistani High Commission (embassy) here Saturday, threatening to create "another Bangladesh" if Pakistan continued its alleged policy of supporting separatist campaigns in India.

Congress Implicates U.S., PRC

BK2801160590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The Congress-I has criticized the government for seeking the help of the United States and China in keeping the environment in the subcontinent peaceful and friendly. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, a party spokesman said these nations have been supporting the country which is actively engaged in fomenting secessionism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

USSR Reaffirms Support

BK2901150490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The Soviet Union has reaffirmed its determination to maintain the level of faith, trust, and cooperation which it has built up with India during the last 4 decades. This was conveyed by the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze, and his deputy, Mr Vorontsov, to the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, who returned to New Delhi this morning after a 3-day visit to Moscow.

Briefing newsmen, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the Soviet side, during several rounds of discussions with Mr Singh, reiterated their stand that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and extended full support for India's unity and integrity.

Violence Reported During Curfew

BK2801122490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, Jan 28 (AFP)—Hundreds of Muslims took to the streets chanting separatist slogans in Kashmir Sunday [28 January] during curfew relaxations in the disputed Indian state, officials here said.

Anti-India protests erupted in at least six residential districts here in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, while Muslim militants attacked and damaged two government banks in the nearby town of Sopor.

An official spokesman said the demonstrations, by sympathisers of the militants campaigning to secede, occurred during a six-hour relaxation in the curfew here despite the presence of Army troops and paramilitary forces.

It was not immediately clear how the protestors, mostly young men, dispersed.

Witnesses said a crowd gathered on a street here, chanted slogans and burnt the Indian flag before retreating.

Snipers suspected to be Muslim separatists also fired at a paramilitary patrol here shortly before the curfew ended at 11 a.m. (0530 GMT), but no one was wounded, the spokesman said.

The firing incident was reported from the thickly populated residential district of Nawakatal. The spokesman said the security forces did not fire back to avoid civilian casualties.

Earlier reports said that the gunmen had fired at Kashmir police.

More than 100 people have been killed by unofficial count across Kashmir since the start of January in violence linked to the secessionist campaign by militants who India says are backed by neighbouring Pakistan.

The spokesman added that Army troops and paramilitary forces had arrested more than 30 militants and their "harbourers" following house-to-house searches for arms across the Kashmir Valley.

The federally administered state government has announced a reward of 100,000 rupees (6,060 dollars) for information leading to the arrest of seven high-ranking Muslim separatist leaders.

The spokesman said a bomb was found and defused late Saturday [27 January] near the office of the Muslim Awami National Conference Party here. The party is led by former Chief Minister G.M. Shah.

Meanwhile, officials Sunday escorted 10 Indian and foreign journalists to Srinagar airport and put them on a plane to New Delhi a day after serving them orders to leave Kashmir within 24 hours.

Srinagar authorities earlier withdrew curfew passes from journalists, preventing them from going out. Visiting journalists were also prevented from coming out of their hotels even during the curfew break Sunday.

New Delhi and Islamabad dispute Kashmir and have fought two wars over the Muslim-majority state.

Hundreds Try To Storm Embassy

BK2701085490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0829 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 27 (AFP)—Hundreds of right-wing activists scuffled with police outside the Pakistani Embassy here Saturday [27 January] during a noisy demonstration to protest Islamabad's alleged support to Sikh and Moslem rebels in India.

Some 1,000 members of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its youth wing tried to storm the blue-domed embassy, but were beaten back by armed policemen and paramilitary personnel, witnesses said.

The protestors, who earlier marched from one kilometre (mile) away in a procession, shouted slogans condemning Pakistan and its prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, while trying to break a security cordon outside the mission.

No one was injured in the scuffles, which lasted 15 minutes before police allowed Madan Lal Khurana, a high-profile BJP MP [member of Parliament], and youth leader Vijay Jolly to submit a protest letter to Pakistani diplomats.

It was the second such demonstration outside the Pakistani Embassy since Thursday [25 January], when some 600 activists of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party rallied outside the now heavily guarded building complex.

The pro-Hindu BJP is the third largest party in parliament and along with the communists supports India's new government, which has charged Pakistan with supporting Moslem militants in Kashmir and Sikh separatists in Punjab.

The BJP, which has been urging the government to take a hard line in both Punjab and Kashmir states, accused Islamabad in the protest letter of providing arms and training to "disruptive elements" in India.

The charges have been repeatedly denied by Pakistan, a predominately Moslem country.

Before retreating from the diplomatic enclave, the BJP workers chanted slogans threatening to create "another Bangladesh" if Pakistan continued its alleged policy of supporting separatist campaigns in India.

The reference was to the 1971 war between India and Pakistan which led to the break of then East Pakistan and its birth as an independent nation known as Bangladesh.

The two previous wars between India and Pakistan, in 1948 and 1965, were fought over Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state. Pakistan controls the northern third of the state.

More than 100 people have been unofficially reported killed and hundreds wounded in violence linked to the Moslem separatist campaign in Kashmir since the start of January.

Violence in adjoining Punjab state, where Sikh militants are campaigning for independence, has left thousands dead since 1983.

5 Persons, 1 BJP Leader Killed

BK2901160790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Six persons, including a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader and two terrorists have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist activities since last night in Punjab.

An official spokesman said the secretary of the Punjab unit of BJP, Mr Gurbachan Singh Patanga, was shot

dead by some terrorists at Jaitomandi in Faridkot District this afternoon. Other victims have been killed elsewhere in the state.

Muslim 'Militants' Bomb Bridge

BK2901095390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Jan 29 (AFP)—Muslim militants bombed and damaged a key bridge while hundreds of Muslims staged anti-India protests here Monday [29 January], police and witnesses said.

Militants set off a bomb under the Badshah bridge situated in the heart of this city, the summer capital of Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state, shortly after curfew was lifted for seven hours at five a.m. (2330 GMT Sunday), a police spokesman said.

The explosion caused minor damage to the brick-and-cement bridge over the Jhelum River linking Srinagar with the town of Uri near the border with Pakistan.

No further details were immediately available.

Hundreds of Muslims also staged peaceful but noisy demonstrations here Monday during the curfew relaxation, the longest in more than a week, witnesses said.

Groups of Muslims numbering 200 to 300 gathered at several points across this city of 800,000 despite the presence of police and paramilitary forces and shouted such slogans as "Indian dogs go back," the witnesses said.

One such protest, by some 200 people, took place near the damaged Badshah bridge. Most demonstrators dispersed voluntarily, though some were chased away by cane-wielding policemen.

Two bomb blasts were also reported from the border towns of Sopor and Trehagam overnight Sunday [28 January], in which some government buildings were reportedly damaged.

'Minor Incidents' Reported

BK2901150190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The overall situation in Jammu and Kashmir remained peaceful today but for a few minor incidents. Curfew was relaxed for varying periods in most towns of the valley. In some places it has been lifted completely.

In Srinagar, relaxation was given for 1 hour more today from 0500 to 1200 noon. It passed off peacefully. A couple of minor explosions were however reported from the city, causing minor damage but no casualties.

Police resorted to firing at a mob at (Thrall) in Pulwama District. One person was killed and two injured in the incident. The state administration has further tightened the security in sensitive areas and paramilitary forces are keeping a strict vigil over any attempt to create disturbances by the subversives.

The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, today called on the president at Rashtrapathy Bhavan [President's House] and briefed him about the general situation in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent understands that the home minister also discussed the appointment of new governors with the president.

The secretary of Jammu and Kashmir state unit of CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Mr Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, has urged the government to take steps to bring normalcy in the Kashmir valley. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, he said a political initiative will help in creating confidence among the people in the state.

Situation Calm; Curfew Relaxed

BK3001091590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation in Srinagar city and other towns in the valley where curfew was relaxed today for varying periods is stated to be peaceful. Official reports said curfew was relaxed from different townships from 3 to 7 hours and no major incident has been reported so far.

In Srinagar, the curfew was relaxed from 0500 for 9 hours. Our correspondent reports that despite snowfall in the city, people are busy making purchases in the markets. Banks, shops, and business establishments are open. Traffic is plying normally. People in large numbers are thronging the Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] to meet the governor, Mr Jag Mohan, and apprise him of their problems. Army and paramilitary forces continue to patrol the town even during relaxation period.

An official spokesman said the decision to relax curfew for more time was taken following further improvement in the law and order situation.

Journalists Asked To Leave

BK2801155590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi that foreign journalists in Srinagar have been asked to leave the valley. Many of them have already left. The decision was taken by the state administration after reviewing the situation yesterday evening.

Security measures have been tightened in the state and the situation is fully under control. The spokesman said the subversives in the valley are on the defensive now.

Meanwhile, two hard-core terrorists from Punjab were arrested at Vijaykot in Jammu region. The terrorists were travelling in a car which bore no registration number.

Commentary on Pakistani Policy

BK2701115290 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Commentary by Ashok Sharma, special PTI correspondent: "Challenges of Indo-Pak Relations"]

[Text] Pakistan's policy of escalation of terrorist activities in Kashmir has caused a serious setback to the process of normalization of relations with India. Negative signals have come from Islamaoad at a time when the new government in New Delhi was giving high priority to improvement in relations with neighboring countries.

The National Front government has moved fast in sorting out irritants in relations with Nepal and Sri Lanka. The external affairs minister, Mr Inder Kumar Gujral, has chosen India's smallest neighbor, Maldives, for his first visit abroad after resuming office in December.

The time chosen by Pakistan to challenge and embarrass India in Kashmir unmistakably points to Ms Benazir Bhutto lacking control of the country's affairs. The Interservices Intelligence, ISI, the drug barons, and the right wing-dominated opposition government in Punjab have their own axe to grind vis-a-vis India and democracy in Pakistan.

With a new government in office in New Delhi, Islamabad apparently failed to gauge the extent of unease that was developing in India over its policy of fomenting trouble in Kashmir. The anti-India lobby tended to believe that if India got bogged down in Kashmir and Punjab, such a situation could throw up opportunities for Pakistan. It seems to have forced the minority Bhutto government into a confrontation with India. If she backed down, it could be used to bring her downfall.

India conveyed to Pakistan, in no uncertain terms, it would be a grave miscalculation to view the situation in Kashmir as an internal uprising. India would ensure, whatever be the cost, that Jammu and Kashmir remained an integral part of India.

The Pakistani side, notably the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, during his visit to Delhi last week, compared the unrest in the Kashmir Valley to the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied Arab territory. Pakistan appeared to be bent on internationalizing the Kashmir issue, starting with the Organization of Islamic Conference and going to the United Nations.

Pakistan's denial of its hands in the mischief in Kashmir hardly enjoyed any credibility in the face of evidence furnished by New Delhi on how it was sneaking men and material into Kashmir.

The external affairs minister, Mr I.K.Gujral, took New Delhi-based Arab ambassadors into confidence and informed them that the message he received from Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was not exactly peaceful. In fact, it was very disconcerting.

The foreign secretary, Mr S.K.Singh, is visiting Moscow to apprise the Soviet leadership of the latest developments on the subcontinent.

The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, in his address on the eve of the Republic Day voiced deep concern over mounting terrorism. He noted with distress that in some parts of the country, the terrorists had received encouragement and assistance far beyond the national border.

India took strong exception to the statements by Sardar Qayyum, president of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and Amanullah Khan, self-styled leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, that soon a commando force of 10,000 would cross the border from the Pakistani side to support the struggle in the Kashmir Valley. The Pakistani actions flagrantly violate the Simla agreement of 1972, which expressly forbade the organization, assistance, and encouragement of any act detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations.

On her assumption of office in December 1988, Ms Bhutto reposed her full faith in the Simla agreement which was signed for Pakistan by her father, late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. But the acts of government agencies point to the erosion of her authority. This shows that the internal situation in Pakistan was anything but satisfactory. The internal struggle for power continues with the prime minister, the president, the right-wing opposition led by Mr Nawaz Sharif, and the military bureaucracy complex acting as the full centers of power. Diplomatic observers feel that Pakistan would like to avoid a war with India, but would do everything possible to incite India to a war-like situation so that the Kashmir issue can be internationalized with India placed in a disadvantageous position.

The new government awaits positive signals from the Pakistani side. If both sides get bogged down in Kashmir, there would be no forward movement in bettering relations between the two countries. Much would depend on how Pakistan responds to Indian concerns over Pakistan's actions in Kashmir.

Iran

*Text, Amendments of Government's 5-Year Plan

90OI0109A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Nov 89 pp 3, 11

[Text] Economic division—Following the publication of sections of the 5-year plan in yesterday's issue of the newspaper, below you will read the complete text of the 5-year plan, which is made available to the representatives of the government upon approval of its final amendments by the Cabinet.

Article 1: The general goals, directions, quantitative objectives, general policies, funds, and implemental programs of the first plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated in Parts 1 and 2 of this law are hereby ratified, and the government shall be responsible for implementing the above-mentioned plan in order to achieve the goals stated in it.

The government is granted permission to allocate from sources anticipated in this law up to a maximum of the following amounts on the basis of the charts in Part 2 of this law, provided the related laws and regulations are observed, to achieve the approved objectives.

Funds for fixed investments from the general revenues, 7,539.6 billion rials.

Funds for fixed investments from internal sources of the companies and for-profit establishments affiliated with the government, 4,939 billion rials.

Current funds from the general revenues, 20,024.4 billion rials.

Note 1: In order to provide for a part of the general funds of the first plan, the government is permitted, up to a maximum of the amounts determined in Chart Number 1 of Part 2 of this law, to make use of the funds in the banking system.

Note 2: The developmental funds cited in Addendum 2 of this law may be increased as follows upon the proposal of executive organizations and the approval of the Plan and Budget Organization.

A - A maximum of 10 percent of the annual funds of every chapter from the reduction in funds of the same chapter for other years of the plan.

B - A maximum of 20 percent of the funds of every program within every chapter from the reduction in funds of other programs in the same chapter, with consideration for Paragraph A.

C - A maximum of 30 percent of the annual funds of every project within the plan from the reduction in the funds of other projects in the same program, with consideration for Paragraphs A and B, provided the total of the funds ratified for every project does not change.

Note 3: In the course of the plan, if the implementation of new projects or the increase in the volume of the operations in the proposed project are deemed necessary to meet the goals of the programs in the water and agricultural sector, particularly in the area of water, soil, and fundamental issues, the government must take measures based on the proposal of the Ministries of Agriculture, Construction Jihad, and Energy, as the case may be, and the approval of the Plan and Budget Organization to provide the funds needed from the total national developmental funds which have not been absorbed.

Note 4: The annual distribution of funds for fixed investments among various provinces must be carried out such that at the end of the plan, the oppressed areas benefit from educational and health resources as well as appropriate rural roads on the basis of the short report identifying the oppressed regions (Phase 6) of the Plan and Budget Organization, if possible at least as much as the non-oppressed areas benefitted in 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990].

Note 5: The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is responsible in the course of the first plan to pay the amount of $104,313 billion from the received funds within the framework of the figures stated in the charts ratified in this law or commit itself to paying it.

Note 6: In order to help procure the raw materials, machinery, parts, and equipment needed for manufacturing exportable goods during this period, the government shall be responsible for providing exporters with a foreign currency fund program suitable to the export goals.

Note 7: In order to make use of the production resources in the country and transfer technical knowledge, all executive organizations carrying out national developmental projects (Ministries of Petroleum; Energy; Post, Telegraph, and Telephone; Defense; Roads and Transport; Agriculture; Mines and Metals; Industries; and Heavy Industries) and affiliated (and controlled) companies and agencies are responsible for making arrangements for the signing of contracts with the foreign purchasing contractors for machinery and equipment, production and implementation of projects to ensure that in the course of the 5-year plan, at least $2.5 billion of the added value from the foreign currency share of the above-mentioned projects will be gained by the country through the manufacture of machinery and equipment, the production of goods, and the implementation of projects in the country. The implemental bylaws of this note will be proposed by the industrial ministries and the Plan and Budget Organization and ratified by the government.

Note 8: In order to provide the foreign currency to complete or implement industrial and production investments and in order for the related executive organization to implement the above-mentioned projects in Addendum No 2 at the latest to the end of the first 5-year plan (1372) [20 March 1994], the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is granted permission to take steps to create the commitments, up to a maximum of $10 billion, not only to complete the project within the agreed time period for the repayment of the commitment, but for the payments to be made at the latest after the unit starts operation.

While offering the necessary guarantees for the related organizations to sign agreements with sellers, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran shall be responsible for regulating the financial agreements for the repayment of the installment payments of the agreements such that the annual repayment of the commitments created will not extend beyond 10 years from the start of the plan or

a maximum of $2 billion per year. The commitments created shall be included in the annual budgets and paid from savings on expenditures or foreign currency revenues gained from the above-mentioned projects.

Ten percent of the cost of every contract signed can be paid in cash as prepayment from the funds stated in the note. The implemental bylaws of this paragraph shall be prepared within a maximum of 2 months by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and approved by the Cabinet.

Note 9: In order to make maximum use of the water and energy resources of the country, the government shall be allowed to create the Karun Three, Karun Four, Karkheh and Estur dams and provide up to a ceiling of $3 billion through the signing of long-term credit agreements.

Note 10: The National Iranian Oil Company is granted the permission and authority, in order to provide the natural gas needed for domestic and export uses and make use of the natural gas fields of Pars and South Pars (joint with Qatar), to take measures to sign the necessary agreements with competent foreign companies, up to a ceiling of 492 billion rials, of which $32 billion shall be in foreign currency, ensuring that the funds to repay the investment costs are derived from the production of the above-mentioned fields.

Note 11: The National Petrochemical Industries Company is hereby granted permission to accept commitments of up to $2.2 billion ($2,200,000,000) for investment petrochemical projects (such as Phase 2 of Arak petrochemical, Phase 2 of Tabriz petrochemical, the project for the production of the (kaper) and (lakam) of nylon raw materials, the creation of the fourth al-'Eyn unit, the Khorasan fertilizer project, the acrylonitrile project) in the form of the pre-sale of products.

Note 12: In order to attract the increased cooperation and participation of the people in the implementation of government developmental projects, that portion of the funds for such projects that is collected from funds received from the people as self-help shall be exempted from the accounting law and other general regulations and shall be subject to the law on procedures for spending funds which are not subject to the accounting law.

In order to expedite the implementation of the projects of the 5-year plan, the executive organizations are permitted to implement said projects without consideration for the general accounting law, but with consideration for the fiscal laws and regulations of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, upon the approval of the related minister.

Note 13: In the implementation of Article 147 of the Constitution, in order to make use of the capabilities of the armed forces in the reconstruction of the country, the executive organizations are permitted to confer the implementation of their own developmental plans and projects on the executive units of the armed forces as independent implementation groups.

The procedures for the payment of the organizations shall be similar to that of other contractors. The armed forces may spend the gains from such activities on the needs of the forces.

Note 14: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (urban land agency and the city halls throughout the country) shall be responsible for identifying those lands that can be used for cultural and educational purposes in the cities, with consideration for the comprehensive head projects for the creation and development of schools, training centers, institutions of higher learning, and cultural, artistic, research, and athletic centers for the ministries and related agencies, and for providing said organizations with the necessary facilities to carry out developmental organizations. The above-mentioned lands shall be transferred free of charge and their cost shall be divided and added to the price of other lands in that city. No taxes shall be collected from lands for cultural or educational use.

The implemental bylaws of this note shall be proposed by the related ministries, approved by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and ratified by the Cabinet.

Note 15: In order to make affordable housing available to the people and pave the way for sufficient rental housing, the government shall be responsible for providing the necessary legal and credit facilities and for creating appropriate expertise and guild committees for this purpose.

Note 16: For the purpose of self-sufficiency in regard to the sugar needed in the society and in order to provide some of the other food and industrial needs of the country, the Ministry of Agriculture shall be permitted to take measures to create 7 industrial farms for sugar cane on a total area of 84,000 hectares, factories for 7 units for raw sugar, 1 unit for purification, 7 units for livestock feed, 6 units for paper pulp, 1 unit for printing and writing paper, 1 unit for pressed wood, and 1 unit for livestock protein.

Note 17: In order to provide for the costs related to technical training for the labor force over the present capacities, the technical and professional training agency shall be granted permission to collect an amount equivalent all the revenues deposited in the general revenues account from the 2 percent training fee and to spend it on the current expenditures related to technical and professional training.

New training centers shall be created following the signing of an agreement with the Plan and Budget Organization.

Note 18: The hajj, religious endowment, and charity agency is granted permission in return for the expenditures of managing the affairs of and supervising over

those religious endowments not owned by the government which have a custodian, if such expenditures are more than 5 percent of the revenues of said endowments, to collect up to a maximum of 5 percent of the revenues of said endowments for these expenditures, and if these expenditures are less than 5 percent of the revenues, only the amount which was spent shall be collected from said revenues.

Note 19: The government is granted permission to sell that portion of real estate, buildings, and establishments the use of which is not feasible and to deposit the obtained revenues in the treasury. The government is responsible to allocate on a separate line by the end of the first plan the equivalent of the revenues that have been deposited in the treasury in that year or previous years for the purpose of reconstruction and development of similar activities in accordance with the plan in the annual budget bill. The related bylaws shall be approved by the Cabinet.

Note 20: In order to provide the resources and equipment necessary for the prevention of pollution by industries, factories and workshops must spend 0.1 percent of the amount of the sale of their products on controlling pollution, compensating for damages from pollution, and creating green areas, upon the determination and under the supervision of the environmental protection agency. The funds spent thus shall be calculated as acceptable expenditures of the establishment.

The implemental bylaws of this note shall be prepared by the environmental protection agency and approved by the Cabinet.

Note 21: The Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education are responsible for collecting a portion of the educational costs from graduates of universities and institutions of higher learning once they complete their education and begin employment. All government establishments and private cooperatives which use the services of the graduate in any way, through issuing work permits, permits for the establishment of workshops, stores, branches, and so on, are responsible to cooperate with the abovementioned ministries in deducting and depositing the debts of the graduates. The maximum amount collected in this connection shall be 25 percent of their average expenditures during their education.

The collected revenues shall be deposited in the general revenue account, and every year funds equivalent to the collected revenues shall be projected in the budget bill for the purpose of developing and strengthening educational activities and for educational support and research.

The bylaws of this note shall be proposed jointly by the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education and the Plan and Budget Organization and ratified by the Cabinet.

Note 22: The Ministry of Agriculture is granted permission to spend the equivalent of 30 percent of the revenues obtained from the deposit of funds from rental fees, sales, and other funds gained from the nationalized, governmental, crown, and other lands belonging to this Ministry on revitalization and development of the same land or other lands.

Note 23: Tariffs on the issuance of permits to establish and manufacture and the technical responsibility of factories and workshops subject to the law on consumable, cosmetic, and health materials stated in Articles 7, 8, and 9 ratified in Tir 1346 [22 June - 22 July 1967] with the 1347 [21 March 1968 - 20 March 1969] amendments are as follows.

Issuance of permits for the establishment of factories and workshops, 50,000 rials.

Issuance of permits for the manufacture of any sort of product in workshops, 50,000 rials.

Issuance of technical responsibility permits, 10,000 rials.

The funds obtained from the sources in this note shall be deposited in the treasury and their equivalent shall be included in the budget of the following year by the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education. The use of these funds shall be exempt from the accounting law and shall be subject to the bylaws proposed by the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education and ratified by the Cabinet.

Note 24: The Ministry of Justice is granted permission from the beginning of 1369 [21 March 1990], in addition to the revenues in Line 410101 (judicial services) cited in Part 3 of the 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990] budget law, to collect the following new revenues and deposit them in the general revenue account of the country.

1 - In every case, with regard to laws in which the maximum punishment is less than 91 days imprisonment or other reduced sentence, from now on, instead of imprisonment or sentence reduction, a verdict of a cash penalty of from 50,001 rials to 500,000 rials shall be given. If the maximum sentence is more than 91 days imprisonment and the minimum is less than this amount, the court shall be allowed to issue a sentence of more than 3 months jail or a cash penalty of from 50,001 rials to 500,000 rials. If in such cases the punishment is imprisonment or a sentence reduction or a cash fine, a cash penalty will be issued instead of a jail sentence or a sentence reduction, and both cash fines will be added together.

2 - The expenditures mentioned in Paragraph C of Article 1 of the law of the Justice Department and the bureau of registration expenditures ratified on 3/11/34 [23 January 1956] are set at 50,000 rials.

3 - To register a complaint with the judges' regulatory court, 500 rials worth of stamps are required to be cancelled.

4 - The expenditures for legal medical services shall be collected on the basis of tariffs to be approved by the Justice Department and deposited in the related accounts of the treasury.

5 - The price of the letters of complaint, statements, and so on cited in Paragraph 13 of Note 91 of the 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] budget law shall be 50 rials per sheet.

6 - The revenues of Fund A and Fund B of the general office of liquidation and bankruptcy affairs cited in Articles 52 and 54 of the above-mentioned law ratified in Tir 1318 [22 June - 22 July 1939] shall increase as follows:

Firstly, the fees for Fund A, which are collected in accordance with ratification No 1703 ratified in Ordibehesht 1319 [21 April - 21 May 1940] from the property of the bankrupt person, shall be 9 percent, up to 5 million rials; 8 percent, up to 10 million rials; and 7 percent on anything over 10 million rials and shall be deposited in the treasury.

Secondly, the revenues in Fund B shall be doubled.

7 - The expenditures in Note 75 of the 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] national budget law shall be doubled.

8 - Letters of complaint presented to the administrative court of justice require the cancellation of 2,000 rials worth of stamps to cover adjudication costs (subject to Article 13 of the law on the establishment of the administrative court of justice ratified in Bahman 1360 [21 January - 19 February 1982]).

Forty percent of the revenues from this note shall be included in the budget of the Justice Department every year.

Note 25: The Voice and Vision organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran is granted permission to directly offer and sell its products and artistic works domestically and abroad without obtaining permits.

Note 26: The government is permitted to establish free commercial-industrial zones at the border regions of the country.

Note 27: In order to support production, the Iranian customs and the organization of ports and shipping are responsible to establish within a maximum of 6 months from the ratification of this law special protected areas at the entry points or domestic customs for the purpose of safekeeping raw materials, parts, tools, and products which are imported without the transfer of foreign currency. The entry of goods from the above-mentioned areas for domestic consumption is subject to the export and import regulations. The owners of the goods may take their imported goods out of the country from the above-mentioned points without any procedures. The implemental bylaws of this note shall be approved by the Cabinet.

Note 28: The Ministry of Commerce is responsible for completing a study of the prices of imported goods within a period of 15 days and for giving the necessary response to the related organizations. In the event of delays, the organization has the right to take steps directly.

Note 29: From the date of the ratification of this law, the agencies for the administration of government stocks in all government companies which have seceded from the organization for the expansion and renovation of Iranian industries and become affiliated with the Ministry of Industries on the basis of the law for the establishment of the Ministry of Heavy Industries shall be transferred to the organization of national Iranian industries. Said companies shall continue to be subject to the laws and regulations of the affiliated companies of the organization for the expansion and renovation of Iranian industries.

Note 30: In order to improve the management and determine the decisive amount of the properties and stocks of the government in the government companies in various sectors, the government is responsible to form a committee under the supervision of the president and with the membership of the minister of economic affairs and finance and the heads of the Plan and Budget Organization and the related organization as the case may be, and to organize the above-mentioned affairs such that by the end of the first plan, while abolishing all tax and customs exemptions of the government companies, the profit operations of said companies will be separated from the government social operations and support and able to be evaluated.

Note 31: In order to achieve the goals of the program, the government is permitted to take the following steps in the areas of management, manpower, organization, and methods:

- 1. The transfer of government organizational units from Tehran to other parts of the country with the proposal of the related ministry and the approval of the Cabinet.
- 2. The dissolution and combining of some of the organizations affiliated with the ministries and the transfer of their duties to the ministry or other establishments in that ministry or other ministries and government organizations upon the approval of the government.
- 3. Reforming the payment system through extra pay for competence in order to create a balance between employee wages and usefulness.
- 4. The use of advanced administrative technology, especially informational technology, in order to provide services of desirable quality and speed.
- 5. Providing part of the manpower needs of the government from the services of those eligible for military service in the executive organizations, upon the approval of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics. The implemental bylaws of this paragraph shall be ratified by the Cabinet.

- 6. Creating a balance between the salaries and benefits of government employees with consideration for inflation in order to prevent a reduction in their purchasing power.

Note 32: The Plan and Budget Organization is responsible for regularly supervising the operations of the executive organizations and reporting at six-month intervals to the government and the Majles on the progress of the operations and their conformity with the established goals of the programs.

The executive organizations are responsible for carrying out all developmental projects that make use of the general budget on the sole basis of the results of the studies concerning economic and technical justifications, descriptions of the operation, and a work plan to be approved by the Plan and Budget Organization only once.

Chart No 1, Summary of the General Budget of the Government During the First Plan (1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994])

Amounts in Billion Rials

	1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]	1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]	1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]	1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]	1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]	Total, 1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]
Revenues	3,081.6	3,651.8	4,254.6	5,039.4	5,716.6	21,744.0
Tax Revenues	1,365.0	1,688.0	2,097.0	2,592.0	3,180.0	10,922.0
Oil Revenues	841.1	1,001.1	1,119.8	1,334.9	1,333.6	5,630.5
Other Revenues	875.5	962.7	1,037.8	1,112.5	1,203.0	5,191.5
Expenditures	4,449.7	5,283.5	5,696.0	5,967.0	6,167.8	27,564.0
Current Funds	3,305.7	3,765.4	4,073.3	4,328.6	4,551.4	20,024.4
Developmental Funds	1,144.0	1,518.1	1,622.7	1,638.4	1,616.4	7,539.6
Budget Deficit	-1,368.1	-1,631.7	-1,441.4	-927.6	-451.2	-5,820.0
Sources to Provide for the Deficit	1,368.1	1,631.7	1,441.4	927.6	451.2	5,820.0
Returns from Payments of Previous Years	128.1	133.7	132.4	113.6	89.20	597.0
Borrowings from the Banking System	1,240.0	1,498.0	1,309.0	814.0	362.0	5,223.0

Chart No 2, Overview of Current Funds in the First Plan (1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994])

Amounts in Billion Rials

	1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990	1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]	1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]	1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]	1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]	Total, 1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]
General Affairs	323.7	430.7	458.9	482.7	504.4	2,230.4
Regulation of Relation Between the Three Branches	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	4.5
Legislative	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	11.1
Administration of General Affairs of the Country	4.7	5.5	5.5	7.8	8.0	31.5
Administration of Judicial Registration and Religious Endowment Affairs	49.2	54.7	59.0	62.0	65.0	290.0
Implementation of the Internal Policies of the Country	21.4	25.2	24.0	25.6	26.3	122.5
Maintaining Internal Order and Security of the Country	179.4	250.1	258.8	267.1	276.6	1,232.0
Administration of Foreign Relations	8.3	11.2	10.1	8.8	8.6	47.0
Administration of Financial Affairs	29.4	33.9	38.5	45.0	50.4	197.2
Statistics and General Technical Services	12.6	13.0	13.0	13.2	13.2	65.0
Information and Mass Communications	29.6	37.2	39.6	42.0	44.5	192.1
Government Buildings and Establishments	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	2.1

Chart No 2, Overview of Current Funds in the First Plan (1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]) (Continued)

Amounts in Billion Rials

	1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990	1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]	1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]	1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]	1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]	Total, 1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]
Administration of Labor Force Affairs	5.7	6.5	6.9	2.5	8.0	34.6
Defense Affairs	617.3	616.0	594.4	586.3	586.0	3,000.0
Social Affairs	1,531.2	1,815.8	2,009.9	2,224.4	2,472.6	10,053.9
General Education	717.0	904.1	1,002.8	1,105.5	1,232.8	4,962.2
Culture and Art	16.0	18.3	20.3	22.2	24.4	101.2
Health, Treatment, and Nutrition	283.7	327.0	368.0	423.5	477.8	1,880.0
Social Security and Welfare	313.3	331.4	355.3	378.3	405.1	1,783.6
Physical Education and Youth Affairs	10.0	10.8	11.3	11.8	12.3	56.2
Housing	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	16.2
Environmental Protection	3.4	3.7	4.1	4.4	4.7	20.3
Multipurpose Operations for Development of Regions	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.0
Technical and Professional Training	63.9	78.1	90.2	102.7	119.7	452.6
Higher Education	18.7	110.5	120.5	131.4	143.2	604.3
Research	21.1	27.5	23.2	40.3	48.2	170.3
Economic Affairs	275.5	414.9	522.1	542.2	465.4	2,220.1
Agriculture and Natural Resources	53.9	59.9	66.2	72.0	79.9	231.9
Water Resources	5.1	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.5	40.5
Electricity	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	4.0
Industries	5.4	5.8	5.9	6.3	6.8	30.3
Petroleum	94.9	101.6	131.2	109.2	—	437.0
Mines	2.5	3.1	3.7	4.4	5.2	18.9
Trade	62.7	178.3	246.8	280.8	304.6	1,073.2
Roads and Transport	42.9	45.2	47.6	49.0	50.4	235.1
Post and Communications	6.8	0.7	8.8	8.0	6.1	39.4
Tourism	0.5	1.6	2.1	2.6	3.1	9.9
Other Current Expenditures	538.0	478.0	488.0	493.0	523.0	2,520.0
(Strengthening Defensive Capabilities)	410.0	380.0	390.0	495.0	425.0	2,000.0
Total	2,305.7	3,765.4	4,072.3	4,328.6	4,551.4	20,024.4

Chart No 3, Overview of Developmental Funds in the First Plan (1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994])

Amounts in Billion Rials

	1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990	1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]	1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]	1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]	1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]	Total, 1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]
General Affairs	61.9	112.2	101.0	102.0	105.0	484.6
Statistics and General Technical Services	8.2	10.4	12.4	11.7	12.7	55.4
Information and Mass Communication	4.9	9.0	10.0	10.0	11.1	45.0
Government Buildings and Establishments	48.8	95.3	78.6	80.3	81.2	384.2
Social Affairs	285.6	461.1	517.0	535.9	545.8	2,345.4
General Education	80.9	154.7	170.9	177.8	190.7	775.0
Culture and Art	3.8	7.2	9.0	9.0	8.5	37.5
Health, Treatment, and Nutrition	45.8	73.0	87.0	92.5	91.7	390.0

Chart No 3, Overview of Developmental Funds in the First Plan (1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]) (Continued)

Amounts in Billion Rials

	1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990	1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]	1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]	1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]	1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]	Total, 1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]
Social Security and Welfare	2.4	3.6	5.4	6.1	5.6	23.1
Physical Education and Youth Affairs	8.4	10.4	11.0	8.5	6.7	45.0
Urban Development	14.3	20.8	24.1	27.5	32.2	118.9
Urban Development and Construction	3.0	5.0	7.0	7.5	7.5	30.0
Housing	13.6	23.9	24.1	25.6	28.4	115.6
Environmental Protection	—	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	2.0
Multipurpose Operations for the Development of Regions	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	25.3
Technical and Professional Training	21.6	37.8	48.4	46.5	45.7	200.0
Higher Education	28.4	38.3	44.5	47.1	40.4	198.7
Research	58.1	80.9	80.0	82.3	83.0	384.3
Economic Affairs	587.1	727.3	774.4	739.9	683.4	3,512.1
Agriculture and Natural Resources	85.8	102.0	121.2	137.4	153.6	600.0
Water Resources	84.0	130.0	126.0	130.0	130.0	600.0
Electricity	38.4	38.2	38.2	28.2	28.2	171.2
Industries	147.3	161.7	159.7	121.3	83.6	673.6
Mines	35.4	43.9	65.8	76.1	68.4	289.6
Trade	4.9	7.4	7.1	5.6	0.7	25.7
Roads and Transport	174.5	225.3	243.1	227.9	210.2	1,081.0
Post and Communications	16.3	14.8	8.5	8.3	3.6	51.5
Tourism	0.5	4.0	4.8	5.1	5.1	19.5
Other Developmental Expenditures	209.4	215.0	230.3	260.6	282.2	1,197.5
(Reconstruction and Renovation of Population Centers, Reconstruction of War-Stricken and Bombed Regions, Cities, and Villages)	(70.0)	(80.0)	(70.0)	(70.0)	(60.0)	(350.0)
Total	1,144.0	1,518.1	1,622.7	1,638.4	1,616.4	7,539.6

Chart No 4, Overview of Fixed Investments During the First Plan (1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994])

Amounts in Billion Rials

	Governmental Sector												Non-Governmental Sector			Total Investment
	From Developmental Funds				From For-Profit and Commercial Establishments				Total				From Private Savings	Use of Banking System	Total	
	Incomplete Projects	New Projects	Projects Under Completion	Total	Incomplete Projects	New Projects	Projects Under Completion	Total	Incomplete Projects	New Projects	Projects Under Completion	Total				
General Affairs	286.7	197.5	0.4	482.6	—	—	—	—	286.7	197.5	0.4	484.6	—	—	—	454.4
Statistics and General Technical Services	22.8	32.2	0.4	55.4	—	—	—	—	22.8	32.2	0.4	55.4	—	—	—	55.4
Information and Mass Communication	26.8	18.2	—	45.0	—	—	—	—	26.8	18.2	—	45.0	—	—	—	45.0

Chart No 4, Overview of Fixed Investments During the First Plan (1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]) (Continued)

Amounts in Billion Rials

	Governmental Sector												Non-Governmental Sector			Total Investment
	From Developmental Funds				From For-Profit and Commercial Establishments				Total				From Private Savings	Use of Banking System	Total	
	Incomplete Projects	New Projects	Projects Under Completion	Total	Incomplete Projects	New Projects	Projects Under Completion	Total	Incomplete Projects	New Projects	Projects Under Completion	Total				
Government Buildings and Establishments	237.1	147.1	—	384.2	—	—	—	—	237.1	147.1	—	384.2	—	—	—	384.2
Social Affairs	896.5	1,313.0	135.9	2,345.2	—	468.2	—	468.2	896.5	1,781.2	135.9	2,813.6	6,070.6	4,705.5	10,776.3	13,589.9
General Education	81.0	694.0	—	775.0	—	—	—	—	81.0	694.0	—	775.0	21.7	87.1	208.8	883.8
Culture and Art	65.3	12.2	—	37.5	—	—	—	—	25.3	12.2	—	37.5	—	—	—	37.5
Health, Treatment, and Nutrition	91.5	244.2	46.3	390.0	—	—	—	—	99.5	244.2	46.3	390.0	158.5	28.0	186.5	576.5
Social Security and Welfare	12.9	10.2	—	23.1	—	—	—	—	12.9	10.2	—	23.1	700.5	—	700.5	723.6
Physical Education and Youth Affairs	24.6	20.4	—	45.0	—	—	—	—	24.6	20.4	—	45.0	—	5.2	5.2	50.2
Urban Development	24.2	66.7	28.0	118.9	—	—	—	—	24.2	66.7	28.0	118.9	885.0	—	885.0	993.9
Rural Development and Construction	3.0	27.0	—	30.0	—	—	—	—	3.0	27.0	—	30.0	16.5	—	16.5	46.5
Housing	30.9	57.7	27.0	115.6	—	443.2	—	443.7	30.9	501.4	27.0	559.3	4,282.9	4,494.1	8,777.0	9,336.3
Environmental Protection	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	—	—	2.0
Multipurpose Operations for Development of Regions	25.3	—	—	25.3	—	—	—	—	25.2	—	—	25.3	—	—	—	25.3
Technical and Professional Training	101.0	69.0	30.0	200.0	—	10.1	—	10.9	101.0	79.1	30.0	210.1	5.5	21.4	26.9	237.0
Higher Education	132.0	66.7	—	198.7	—	—	—	—	132.0	66.7	—	198.7	—	68.7	68.3	267.0
Research	336.8	44.9	2.6	384.3	—	14.4	—	14.4	336.8	59.3	2.6	318.7	—	1.0	1.2	399.9
Economic Affairs	1,889.3	1,422.4	199.4	3,512.1	2,630.8	1,420.5	419.5	4,470.8	4,520.1	2,843.9	618.9	7,982.9	1,470.9	2,398.0	3,668.9	11,651.8
Agriculture and Natural Resources	136.0	459.4	4.6	600.0	32.8	52.5	42.5	128.8	168.8	512.9	47.1	728.8	726.3	1,225.7	1,952.0	2,680.8
Water Resources	380.0	190.0	30.0	600.0	17.6	10.2	—	27.8	397.6	200.2	30.0	627.8	122.0	182.4	305.6	933.4
Electricity	30.9	102.3	38.0	171.2	405.8	928.4	56.2	1,290.4	436.7	1,030.7	94.2	1,561.6	10.0	—	10.0	1,571.6
Industries	405.6	268.0	—	673.6	344.9	147.0	—	491.9	750.5	415.0	—	165.5	320.1	446.6	766.7	1,932.2
Petroleum	—	—	—	—	981.4	45.8	273.8	1,301.0	981.4	45.8	273.8	301.0	—	—	—	1,301.0
Gas	—	—	—	—	620.4	—	—	640.4	640.4	—	—	640.4	—	—	—	640.4
Mines	140.6	149.0	—	289.6	0.2	4.5	—	5.2	141.3	153.5	—	294.8	—	64.9	64.9	359.7

Chart No 4, Overview of Fixed Investments During the First Plan (1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]) (Continued)

Amounts in Billion Rials

	Governmental Sector												Non-Governmental Sector			Total Investment
	From Developmental Funds				From For-Profit and Commercial Establishments				Total				From Private Savings	Use of Banking System	Total	
	Incomplete Projects	New Projects	Projects Under Completion	Total	Incomplete Projects	New Projects	Projects Under Completion	Total	Incomplete Projects	New Projects	Projects Under Completion	Total				
Trade	19.7	6.0	—	25.7	4.5	10.1	—	14.6	24.2	16.1	—	40.3	88.5	206.5	395.0	435.3
Roads and Transport	759.9	219.9	101.2	1,081.0	—	189.8	—	189.8	759.9	409.7	101.2	1,270.8	4.0	270.9	374.9	1,545.7
Post and Communications	12.9	13.0	25.6	51.5	202.7	31.2	47.0	180.9	215.6	44.2	72.6	332.4	—	—	—	332.4
Tourism	3.7	15.8	—	19.5	—	—	—	—	2.7	15.8	—	19.5	—	—	—	19.5
Other	—	1,197.5	—	1,197.5	—	—	—	—	—	1,197.5	—	1,197.5	—	—	—	1,197.5
Total	3,072.5	4,131.4	335.7	7,539.6	2,630.8	1,888.7	419.5	4,939.0	5,703.3	5,020.1	755.2	13,476	7,341.5	7,103.7	1,445.2	17,923.8

Chart No 5, Country's Foreign Currency Sources and Usages Under the First Plan (1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994])

Sources		Usages	
Description	Million Dollars	Description	Million Dollars
Exports of Petroleum, Natural Gas, and Petroleum Products	80,433	Import of Goods	153,963
Exports of Crude Oil	70,165	Agriculture and Natural Resources	6,473
Exports of Natural Gas	1,600	Water Resources	1000
Exports of Petroleum for Import of Products	6,243	Industries	28,600
Exports of Liquid Gas, Naphtha, Gas Liquids, and Heating Oil	2,425	Mines	2,900
Exports of Non-Petroleum Products	18,536	Petroleum and Petroleum Products	14,643
Exports of Agricultural Products	3,024	Natural Gas	1,500
Exports of Industrial Products	9,000	Housing	400
Exports of Carpets	4,400	Electricity	6,800
Exports of Mineral Products	2,000	Roads and Transport	4,400
Exports of Pharmaceutical Products	112	Urban Development	250
Foreign Currency Sources Cited in Paragraph 14, Note 29, of the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] Budget Law (Net)	400	Post and Communications	2,400
		Atomic Energy	550
		Trade	19,540
		Defense, Law Enforcement, Security, and Intelligence	9,490
		General Education	151
		Technical and Professional Training	100
		Higher Education	512
		Research	400
		Culture and Art	196
		Health and Treatment	2,000
		Social Security and Welfare	100
		Administration of Foreign Relations	250

Chart No 5, Country's Foreign Currency Sources and Usages Under the First Plan (1368-72 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]) (Continued)

Sources		Usages	
Description	Million Dollars	Description	Million Dollars
		Physical Education	57
		Information and Mass Communication	690
		Meteorology	30
		Tourism	30
		Environmental Protection	1
		Reconstruction	400
		Import of Services (Net)	350
		Change in Foreign Currency Reserves	4,944
Source Total	99,369	Usage Total	

*Report On 18 Dec 89 Majles Session

90OI0107A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
19 Dec 89 pp 5, 9

[Text] The report on yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles—Legal and parliamentary bureau:

The open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi. In this session, after recitation of some verses from the Holy Koran, Messrs. 'Avazzadeh the deputy from Shirvan; Hashemi, the deputy from Jahrom; and Shafe'i, the deputy from Marand, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, in commemoration of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Dr Mofatteh, Mr Karrubi spoke and called for strengthening of the solidarity between the theological center and the University. After the Majles speaker's speech, the deputies' memos to the executive officials of the country were read, and then Majles began its session.

Following is the text of the speeches by the pre-agenda speakers and details of the discussions:

Seyyed 'Ali 'Avazzadeh, Representative of the People of Shirvan

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr Seyyed 'Ali 'Avazzadeh, the representative of the people of Shirvan, who said: The Islamic Consultative Majles' mid-term elections were held at a time when it was forecast that the people's candidates would be entering the Majles with a suitable number of votes in the first round. This widely held belief was based on the fact that the candidates were endorsed by the Council of Guardians and also their supporters had launched fairly good campaign activities on their behalf. After the votes were counted, it became clear that the results of the election and voter participation were not as the officials expected. Although the cold weather and rain were said to be the main reason for the poor showings, but it surely is not the only reason. It must be accepted that other factors contribute to voter participation.

In this regard he added: Investigation of the situation indicates that when the people feel that their presence does not necessarily result in their desired outcome of the events or if their participation in the electoral process may ultimately result in strengthening or weakening a certain point of view, which bears no advatage except serving the intersts of a certain group and thus causes imbalance in the society, then there is no motivation left for them to be active. The people have heard about the Majles from the founder of the Islamic Republic, that it is the result of the people's shouts of "God is Great" and it is above all other organs and matters. Naturally, the people expect that such a Majles is beyond the interests of a group.

From the outset of the Majles's formation, with the clarity of the Constitution in regard to it, and with all the endorsement given to it by the exalted leadership, there were some people whose span of ideas expanded as far as that of their faction and they saw themselves as obligated to protect and defend these ideas. They thought that their suggested solution could guarantee success and realize the ideals of the revolution. It was based on this analogy that some so-called representatives of the people and—in appearance—die-hard defenders of the Majles, found a way into the Majles. However, when it was time for them to make decisions, they would see themselves outside of the boundries of the Majles. They would forget the mission of this institution, the responsibilities of being a deputy and a representative of the people, and, at times, acted in a way as if there is no need for Majles and law. They would make assertions as to what should be the role of the Majles. All these were basically on the premise of supporting their comrades. It is obvious that at this time another group—from the executive level in the country—who noted that their ideas were not very appealing outside of the boundries of the Majles, found the Majles' podium a suitable place for spreading their collective ideas. I do not intend to endorse or disapprove of any group with a certain way of thinking or state the superiority of one school of thought over another because, under the prevailing conditions at that time, our exalted Imam was kind to and endorsed both schools of thought. Anyhow, as the kind gentlemen and the Hezbollah nation take notice, it cannot be ignored that

some of the people who thought themselves obligated to support the Majles at all costs presently lack the necessary sensitivity towards the Majles. On the other hand, those who, in their collective thoughts, did not pay heed to the Majles are presently showing more enthusiasm than before in defense of it.

He also pointed out: As a two-term Majles deputy who is familiar with current affairs and without any special attachment to any particular issue, I have followed up on some of the problems and find it necessary to attract the attention of the Hezbollah nation and the beloved officials to the fact that, in all honesty, niether did yesterday's sensitivities and careless attitudes toward the Majles have a correct justification nor do the excessive sentiments of today. What is certain is that no one can take away from the power of the Majles, nor is it appropriate for anyone to think about weakening the Majles, for any resaon. The Islamic Consultative Majles, besides the beloved leader of the Islamic republic, enjoys the same power that it enjoyed by being next to the founder of the Islamic Republic and was always looked upon kindly by him. I say to the dear gentlemen, let us not do something that our efforts lead to bringing the Majles in line with our collective ideas. Such an act, deliberate or otherwise, will be precisely in the direction of weakening the Majles which we have witnessed its results in the by-elections for the Islamic Consultative Majles. On the other hand, this matter is not only true about the Majles. The same ideas are being routinely practiced with regard to the government and it will be repeated, perhaps overtly, in the future also. Is it possible to blame, thoughtlessly, all the present problems on the serving government which was endorsed by the Imam? Have you forgotten that the same government received several votes of confidence from the Majles. This was at a time when the speakership of the Majles was with a grand character such as Mr Hashemi who was a defender of the government. On the other hand, can some of the stated worries about the strong government of Mr Hashemi have any credence. A government whose main participants are those who, for a long time, were members of this Majles, were elected by the people, and have the confidence of the Majles. A government that, in such a short time, has taken valuable steps in the direction of eradicating problems. A government that is going to bring rays of hope to the hearts of this deprived people, with the endorsement of the exalted leadership and support of this Majles. What more is there to worry about when you deputies have given the responsibility of supervision of a branch that oversees the government to a person who is a disciple and a student of the Imam. A man who, at all times after the revolution, has been loved and adored like a father by the true owners of the revolution such as the families of martyrs, prisoners of war, missing in action, combatants, and the disabled.

Mr 'Avazzadeh then emphasized: In this great juncture we are duty-bound to try and strengthen the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani instead of spreading disappointment and by avoiding the collective ideas of special interest groups. God willing, in a not so distant future we shall witness the blossoming of the true Islam in all aspects.

The representative of the people of Shirvan also gave some reminders to the president and the country's executive officials with regard to the population growth in Khorasan province as a result of migration and problems and issues facing his constituancy.

Fakhreddin Hashemi, Representative of the People of Jahrom

Mr Hashemi, the representative of the people of Jahrom, was the second pre-agenda speaker. At the beginning of his speech, he praised the martyr of the mosque, Ayatollah Dastqeib, the grand teacher and defender of the true Mohammadan Islam and, also, pointed out the tenth anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Dr Mofatteh and emphasized:

Ayatollah Dr Mofatteh was a martyr who trained theological and university students in the foxholes of the theological center and university. He focused his activities on bringing the clergy and students close to each other. We hold the memory of this grand martyr very dear to us.

Continuing his speech, he referred to the protection of independence and strengthening the regime by the people and the officials and said: the revolutionary people of Iran, following the exalted leadership, will continue on the path of the late Imam. The goal of all revolutionary forces, the people of Iran and, especially, officials of the country is to maintain independence and freedom and strengthening the regime until the coming of the absent Imam. Certainly the only way to achieve this is by following the path of the late Imam. This can be understood from the messages, speeches, and, ultimately, from the political, inspirational will of that grand Imam. Our domestic and, especially, foreign policies must be based on these instructions. One of the important objectives of the Imam, to which we should pay attention, is supporting the beloved Crusaders, the Hezbollah, the downtrodden, and the deprived. The late Imam never denied them his support. It is clear to us that in crucial times these were the ones who defended the revolution and the regime with all their power and possibilities. They did not hesitate about sacrificing their lives and presented many martyrs to Islam and the revolution. Their steadfastness causes much fear in America, Israel, and the criminals of the East and the West.

In another part of his speech the speaker mentioned the point that solving economic problems and the affairs of the deprived people is necessary, and what is more important is preserving Islamic culture and values. He said: Many countries have gained some economic advantages at the time when their national culture has collapsed and fallen to extensive corruption. For example, instances which usually result in neglecting a healthy and Islamic culture lead to the deviation of a revolution or

movement in the long term. Spreading prostitution, moral corruption, lack of Islamic cover, use of bad cover by women in the society, destruction of the character of women by way of immorality, unrestrained attitudes, appointment of indifferent people to sensitive positions in the Ministry of Education and Training and some other ministries, occupation of key posts by undesirable characters, and the spread of gambling and drinking of alcohol which cause the setting of the sun of Islam in a country. We thank God that Islamic Iran was saved from the claws of evil by the late Imam. Although, the leader of the revolution and the president are surely watching the situation, however, small issues with regard to moral corruption which are taking place in this country are causing concern among the Hezbollah and, especially, families of martyrs, missing in action, prisoners of the imposed war, the clergy, and the committed students. Also, if hygienic facilities are put at the disposal of the people in a society and it is practiced, the society will not need cure and surgery every so often. In connection to corruption, also, if the Islamic culture of the society is strengthened, then te problems of the judicial branch will be less. The Voice and Vision [radio and television] of the Islamic Republic can play a crucial role in connection with strengthening the correct Islamic culture by paying more attention to the implementation and control of programs.

He continued: Some programs are being conducted in weddings that if the local clergy or the Hezbollah want to give their opinion about [or interfere in] or implement laws pertaining to imoral acts, they are told that if these acts are sacrilegious then how come they are being broadcast from the radio and television. Although we beleive that, in comparison, the pre-revolution corruption used to be rampant—although these are minor issues and should not be brought up—but in such minor and small cases it is necessary that the Ministry of Interior act in several of these cases and decisively pursue the issue of fighting the corruption and other issues.

During his speech Mr Hashemi referred to the 5-Year Plan and emphasized: This plan can solve many of the pre-revolution and the imposed-war problems. A positive characteristic of the 5-Year Plan is the special attention given to the deprived people and farmers and its involvement in the villages and deprived districts. The government and the Majles should transform the eradication of deprivation from the districts to the villages. This must be clarified in the form of a bill or a plan for the deprived provinces. The other problems addressed in the 5-Year Plan are issues related to the immigration forced by the imposed war and issues related to reconstruction of war-damaged regions.

In another part of his sppech, the representative of the people of Jahrom referred to the work regulation bill and pointed out: Now that this bill has been sent to the Expediency Discernment Council, workers have certain expectations. They are a significant segment of this revolutionary nation. They have given many martyrs to the cause of Islam, while continuing to produce under bombings and despite the shortages of raw material as a result of the imposed war. They have done this for the love of the Imam and Islam and without any expectation at the time. The workers expect this bill to be ratified without any changes or dilution. the passing of this bill is possible because of the special powers of the Expediency Discernment Council.

In conclusion he offered some suggestions to the executive officials in connection with solving some of the problems of his constituancy.

Karim Shafe'i, Representative of the People of Marand

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr Shafe'i, the representative of the people of Marand, who attempted to support the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and said:

Firstly, it is necessary that I thank and commend Mr Hashemi and his cabinet for the hard work and programs of the government. I would like to give the good tidings to the respected Majles and the Hezbollah nation that all or at least the majority of Majles deputies see themselves obligated to support the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The reason being that we know this government as the government of Islam, the government of the revolution, and the government under the rule of the leadership and the rule of theocracy.

He then extended his congratulations for the Day Of Solidarity Of Clergy And Students. In this connection he said: In this regard I would like to bring to the attention of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, the Majles deputies, and the government that if we want the country to gain from the revolution and for us to free ourselves from dependencies, attention must be given to the universities and academic levels. Special consideration must be given to providing facilities for universities, especially technical and medical universities and the levels of masters and doctorate. The independence of the country will be a collateral for independence of the universities. At this time I beseech his Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay personal attention to the Technological University of Azarbayjan. During the premiership of Engineer Musavi the ground-breaking ceremonies for the establishment of Sahand Technilogical University were held. However, regretfully, at this time the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education is not forthcoming with adequate assistance and thinks that a university with such magnitude can be established by the people's private donations. The fact must be considered that, from an academic point of view, Azarbayjan is considered to be a weak province and the country's high executives should pay attention to it. I ask of the person of the president, on behalf of the majority of deputies from this province, to pay special attention to the East Ajabayjan Technological University and allocate adequate credits for it in the 69 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991] budget.

In another part of his speech he gave notice to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani regarding imports and said: Abundance in the country cannot be achieved merely by importing. If we want to fight inflation, the responsible organizations of the country must become coordinated. If we import goods, meaning if the ministry of commerce tries to import goods and has announced that 10 million tons of goods are ready to be unloaded in the ports, then you must know that roads and transportation, loading and unloading, shipping and unloading ships, trains and all the related organs and, ultimately, the domestic distribution system must be coordinated. Otherwise you reach the point where 80 ships have docked in the Persian Gulf ports and we don't have the facilities to unload them, to clear the goods from customs, and as a result fighting inflation will not bear the desired results. Therefore, paying attention to the coordination of all organizations is a necessity for fighting inflation.

In another part of his speech Mr Shafe'i objected to the imbalance in the distribution of the budget among the provinces and said: No matter where you set foot in this country you will see Turks and Azari's. There are more in Tehran than any other place. The reason can be explained in one point which is Azarbayjan does have the capacity to absorb the educated and skilled work force. There is no industry in the province of Azarbayjan. There are no real universities in the province of Azarbayjan. Agriculture has not been supported in Azarbayjan as it has in other places. The construction jihad is not as active in Azarbayjan as it is in other places. If we notice the credits in the budget, only 1.2 percent of the budget for main thoroughfares of the country have been allocated to Azarbayjan. (The speaker was repeatedly asking Mr Khalkhali to sit down and saying to him, "Your turn will come to talk.") On this basis, it is as if we have 70 provinces in order to allocate 1.2 percent of the budget for main thoroughfares.

Continuing he emphasized: Necessary credits must be allocated and evenly distributed on the basis of the experimental plan which will be included in the budget and plan for the 5-Year Plan.

In another part of his speech, the representative of the people of Marand pointed out the strengthening of the Islamic Consultative Majles and said: Fortunately, both the respected deputies and the leadership have taken notice of the point that the Majles must be stronger than what it is. The secret of success and strengthening of the Majles is by abondoning the sole mission of making laws and move in the direction of supervision, research, and studies. Move in the direction of working towards auditorship and planning. As long as we don't have research and studies in the workings of the executive and judicial organizations of the country, naturally, we will not have a Majles stronger than this. Therefore, God willing, all the deputies and the respected leadership of the Majles will pay immidiate attention to the necessity of strengthening the Majles.

In another part of his speech, the speaker requested that the Interior Ministry exert better control over foreigners and their comings and goings.

In conclusion of his speech, Mr Shafe'i thanked the Majles Health Commission for their inspection of the provinces hospitals. He then asked the Planning and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Health to pay more attention to the hospital problems of the province.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was continuation of the consideration of the bill for the 5-Year Plan.

Note 13: In order to provide for the expenses related to technical training of the work force, in excess of the present capacities, the Technical and Vocational Training Organization is permitted to receive an amount equivalant to the sum of all the earnings from the provisions of Article 14 of the Job Training Law and all its notes—and deposited in the General Income Account—for training fees. This shall be allocate for the current and reconstruction expenses of the said organization. New training centers shall be established after the exchange of agreements between the Technical and Vocational Training Organization and the Planning and Budget Organization.

Note 14: In order to provide for the necessary capabilities and facilities to prevent pollutior resulting from industries, the factories and shops are duty-bound to allocate one thousandth of the total sale of their products to be spent on clean up efforts, prevention of spreading pollution and creation of green space, under the supervision of the Environmental Protection Organization. The sums allocated under this category shall be considered and accounted as acceptable expenses of the respective organizations.

The executive guidelines of this note shall be drawn up by the Environmental Protection Organization, with the assistance of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, and shall be approved by the cabinet.

The Industries and Mines Commission and the Education and Training Commission suggested that Note 14, proposed by the government, shall be retained. "The government is duty-bound to take the necessary action to implement fundamental changes in the order of the education and training and prepare the required bill within 6 months after ratification of this law to be presented to the Islamic Consultative Majles."

In regard to this proposal, Mr 'Abbasi spoke in opposition and Mr Mo'azanzadeh spoke in ageement. After the comments of the commission reporter and the representative of the government the said proposal was put to a vote and was approved.

Note 15: The Ministries of Culture and Higher Education, and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education are

required to receive a portion of the training expenses from university graduates and institutions of higher education after their graduation and resumption of their career. All organizations attached to the government, cooperative or private, that employ the services of these graduates in any way or issue work permits to them, issue license for their operation of shops, stores, or branches are required to deduct and deposit amounts owed by the graduates. This must be done in cooperation with the said ministries. The maximum amount receivable shall be 25 percent of their total educational expenditures.

The income earned shall be deposited in the General Income Account. Each year a credit equvalant to this earned income shall be allocated in the budget bill to be spent on expansion and strengthening of educational, educational-aid, and research activities.

The executive guidelines of this note, per joint proposal of the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education and the Planning and Budget Organization, shall be approved by the cabinet.

In regard to this note, a number of deputies suggested that it be omitted. Mr Sheybani spoke in opposition and Mr Banihashemi spoke in agreement with this suggestion. After the comments by the reporter of the commission and the representative of the government, the proposal for omission of Note 15 was put to a vote and passed.

Note 16: The Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education is permitted to charge a fee, according to the following table, to applicants for building hospitals, poly-clinics, clinics, medical labratories, medical offices, and pharmacies as fees for principle agreement and operation permits and deposit them in the National Treasury Account. These sums are to be returned to the account of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education in order to be used to purchase equipment for health, rehabilitation, laboratory, and hospital centers.

1. To establish hospitals: In Tehran, 1 million rials; in university towns, 500 thousand rials; and in other towns, 250 thousand rials.

2. To establish medical laboratories: In Tehran, 250 thousand rials; in university towns, 150 thousand rials; and in other towns, 100 thousand rials.

3. To establish poly-clinics: In Tehran, 250 thousand rials; in university towns, 150 thousand rials; and in other towns, 100 thousand rials.

4. To establish pharmacies: All across the country, with the exception of deprived districts, 100 thousand rials.

5. To establish medical offices: In Tehran, 250 thousand rials; in university towns, 150 thousand rials; and in other towns, 100 thousand rials.

In regard to this note, a proposal was tabled by Mr Eshaq Jahangiri to drop the phrase "in other towns" in sections 1, 2, and 3.

Messrs. Qomi and Aqa'i spoke for and in opposition to this proposal. After comments by the reporter of the commission and representative of the government the proposal was put to vote and was approved by the deputies.

Also, the Health Commission suggested that the following note be added to Note 16: "In order to provide the medicine needed in rural and deprived districts and to encourage young pharmacists to establish pharmacies in the said areas, banks across the country are required to allocate ten billion rials as interest-free loans—to be paid back in 10 years—to applicants in the said areas with the approval of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education. Each case shall be up to ten million rials.

In regard to this proposal, Messrs. Movahhedi-Saveji and Akrami spoke in opposition and agreement. After comments by the reporter of the commission and representative of the government this proposal was put to a vote and was approved.

The Second Item on the Agenda

The second item on the agenda was the legal plan for the method of creating more facilities for the expansion of educational units by the Ministry of Education and Training which was tabled with a single-urgency.

In regard to the single-urgency of the plan, Messrs. Kheyrkhah and Qomi spoke in opposition and agreement. Then the single-urgency of the plan was put to a vote which was not approved and, thus, rejected.

Continuation of Discussions on the 5-Year Plan Bill

Yesterday afternoon's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi. The only order of this session was continuation of consideration of the 5-Year Plan bill.

Note 17: As of the start of the year 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991], permission is granted to the Ministry of Justice to receive as income—in addition to income subject of line 410101 (Judicial Services) stipulated in the third part of the budget law for the year 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990]—and to deposit in the National General Income Account the following:

1. In every case that the law stipulates less than 91 days of imprisonment, from now on the imprisonment shall be replaced by a fine of seventy thousand and one rials up to one million rials. If the maximum punishment is more than 91 days imprisonment and the minimum punishment is less than this, then the court can rule that the pinishment be over 3 months imprisonment or a fine of from seventy thousand and one rials up to one million rials. If in the above case imprisonment or a fine may be

ruled, then, in place of imprisonment, payment of a fine equivalant to the sum of both fines may be ruled.

2. The expenses subject of paragraph "C" from Article 1 of the law, subject of the expenses of the Ministry of Justice and recording—passed on 1334/11/3 [23 January 1954]—shall be designated to be five hundred rials.

3. To lodge complaints and register them with the disciplinary prosecutor a stamp of 500 rials shall be utilized.

4. The costs of services by the medical examiner shall be collected and deposited in respective accounts of the treasury in accordance with the tarrif that shall be approved by the Ministry of Justice.

5. The cost of complaint forms, affidavit forms, and all other forms, subject of paragraph 13 of Note 91 from the 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] budget law, shall be fifty rials per page.

6. Income from fund "A" and fund "B" of the Office of Liquidation and Bankrupcy Affairs, subject of articles 52 and 53 of the said law passed in the month of Tir of 1318 [22 June - 22 July 1939], shall be increased as follows:

Firstly, the amount to be collected from the funds of a bankrupt entity for fund "A" and deposited in the account of the treasury (in accordance with the ratification notice number 1703 of the month of Ordibehesht of 1319 [21 April - 21 May 1940]) shall be 9 percent if the funds are below 5 million rials. If the amount of funds is in excess of this amount and up to ten million rial, it shall be 8 percent. If the amount is in excess of ten million rials it shall be 7 percent.

Secondly, the income of fund "B" shall be doubled.

7. Costs pertaining to the subject of Note 75 of the National Budget Law for the year 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] shall be doubled.

8. Compalits presented to the Administrative Justice Tribunal shall require utilization of 2000 rials of stamp to cover the hearing expenses (subject of Article 13 of the law for formation of the Administrative Justice Tribunal passed in Bahman of 1360 [21 January - 19 February 1989].) Fifty percent of the income subject of this note shall be allocated to the budget for the Ministry of Justice.

A number of deputies suggested that this note be omitted. Also, after the explanations of Mr Qoreyshi, Mr Alhoseyni gave a constitutional warning and declared: This note is in violation of Principle 156 of the Constitution because, in the paragraph one of principle 156 it is mentioned: "Investigation of and rulings in regard to injustices, complaints, encroachments, resolution of disputes, elimination of animosities, making decisions, and taking necessary action in regard to the affairs determined by the law, and also those under paragraph 2 pertaining to resurrection of public rights and expansion of justice and legitimate freedom, shall be the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice." In the case of this Note 17, it intends to wipe out the part about injustices and intends to buy it off.

In regard to Note 17, Messrs. Amid-Zanjani and Nurollah 'Abedi spoke in opposition and in agreement. After the comments by the reporter of the commission and the minister of justice the proposal to omit the note was put to a vote but did not pass and thus was rejected.

Also, a number of deputies suggested that the first paragraph of the note be omitted. In this regard Messrs. Movahhedi-Saveji and Akrami spoke in opposition to and in favor of the proposal. After comments by the reporter of the commission and the minister of justice the proposal to omit paragraph one of the note was put to a vote but did not pass and thus was rejected.

The Treasury and Economy Commission suggested that the following sentence be added to the end of paragraph 1 of Note 17: "In exertion of fines regarding the subjects of this paragraph, except traffic violations, the condition is set to bearing at least one-fifth of the jail term."

Messrs. Behzadian and Movahhedi-Saveji spoke in favor and in opposition to this proposal. After comments by the reporter of the commission and the minister of justice the proposal was put to a vote but did not pass and thus was rejected.

Also, the Economy and Treasury Commission proposed that the following paragraph replace Note 17: "In every case that the maximum punishment is less than 91 days of imprisonment or punishment pertaining to traffic violations, from now on instead of imprisonment or other punishment the ruling shall be for a fine of between seventy thousand and one rials to one million rials."

This proposal was put to a vote and passed.

The open sessions of the Islamic Consultative Majles will be held this morning and this afternoon.

The Deputies' Memos to the Country's Executive Officials

- Mr Kavusi, the deputy from Tuyserkan: To the administrator of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, in connection with following religious standards for broadcasting music and other programs of the Voice and Vision.
- Mr Partow, the deputy from Khodabandeh: To the Ministry of Health, in connection with investigation of the affairs of doctors, ambulance drivers, and all employees of clinics and health centers. Speedy provision of building materials for the 96-bed hospital of Geydar. To the minister of agriculture for providing agricultural equipment, fertilizers, seeds, and expediting the prevention of the spread of parasites for the farmers of Geydar and the surrounding areas.
- Mr Shafe'i, the deputy from Marand: To the minister of economic affairs and finance, in appreciation of that ministry's following of the deputies' memos.

- Memo from a number of deputies: Notice is given to the minister of culture and higher education regarding the offense of the daily newspaper RESALAT in tampering with the statement of the late Imam in his political, religious will. The statement "I say to the respected clergy society, especially the exalted jurists, not to pull themselves away from social issues and, especially, the presidential election and the Majles elections." was tampered with and the following replacement were made: "The combatant clergy society [Jame'eh Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez]" In this, the phrase "respected jurists" was dropped and substituted by the word "combatant."

*Report on 25 Dec 89 Majles Session

90OI0115A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
26 Dec 89 pp 5, 3

[Text] Legal and Majles Bureau:

The open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held yesterday morning and afternoon, under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian. In this session, after recitation of some verses from the Holy Koran, Messrs. Khalkhali and Saleh-Abadi, the deputies from Qom and Mashhad, spoke as pre-agenda speakers and then the Majles began its session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the only item for discussion during yesterday's open session was continuation of the investigation of the 5-Year Plan bill which, after some corrective suggestions by the deputies, several of its notes were approved and continuation of its study was postponed to the next session.

Following is the text of the speeches by the pre-agenda speakers and the details of the discussions:

Sadeq Khalkhali, The Representative of the People of Qom

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr Khalkhali, the representative of the people of Qom, who in his speech referred to the American military invasion of Panama and said:

The United States Of America, in the greedy fashion of hungry wolves, always hunts its preys by way of suppressing nations. Once it hovers around this pray on the earth and another time in Vietnam, Kampuchia, the occupied territories, and now in Panama. The innocent and oppressed people of Panama are being beaten up because of the Canal. Regretfully, world arrogance has quieted down, and governments all over the world have taken an indifferent posture. The sufferers are only and only the Panamanian nation. The demonstrated bravery of Mr Noriega, the official president of Panama, is very important for us. If we were in the place of the Panamanian people, or if we were there, we would have raised arms and fought on the side of the Panamanian people. This is the duty of Central America, the people of Costa Rica or other neighboring countries of Panama. They should not keep silent in this affair. We declare our solidarity with the nation of Panama. In continuation he added: It is being said that Mr Noriega has taken refuge in the Vatican embassy. If this is true, then the Vatican is responsible for his life. Embassies are the domains of a country and the Vatican embassy is a part of the Vatican. Despite all the tanks and weapons that have surrounded the embassy, no armed person has the right to enter it. We expect the Pope not to take this matter lightly and declare his position in regard to protecting the life of Mr Noriega. Like hungry cats, the American hyenas and the ring leaders of corruption want to arrest him, try him, and then kill him.

In another part of his speech, the speaker referred to his speech of last Tuesday, in objection to the visit of Mr Ceausescu, and said: I received many thanks from those inside and outside the Majles. Also, after that speech there were some complaints. But what can I do except thank the gentlemen. In response I must say that, Gods light will protect the believer [al-mu'min yanzur bihi nur Allah—Arabic phrase]. Other than this I have no answer. The real issue is that the walls of Bucharest and other Romanian cities are smeared with the blood of the innocent, desperate, and sacrificed people of Romania by the hand of an executioner and a dictator such as Ceausescu. The path covered by Ceausescu during the past 24 years of his rule in Romania was much worse than that of Stalin in Russia. You heard from the mass media yesterday that they have given 70 thousand martyrs of which there were infant children in the arms of their mothers. They were all martyred for independence from this ruthless communism.

In this connection, Mr Khalkhali said: Please note that Ceausescu came to Iran and was entertained. However, at the end, he was kicked. The exalted leader did not receive him because he could not receive a butcher. A criminal and a murderer was not at all fit for meeting with the leadership and, thank God, towards the last moments of his visit he realized that Iran is not satisfied with this affair. For this reason we declare our sympathy with the sacrificed people of Romania. We share their pain and grief and are happy for their victory over dictators.

Mr Khalkhali then severely criticized the policies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and said: It is regrettable that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran lacks adequate efficiency. Our intelligence officials and even our ambassador to Romania, Mr Gohari, last wednesday night told one of the respected deputies that you know, but I shall refrain from mentioning his name, that, "what was said by Mr Khalkhali was not correct. There is nothing going on in Romania." Then you see that on Thursday night the bodies of 12 thousand people are discovered in a mass grave (in Timisoara). Why should we think like this? The cadre of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be active. We all have problems but have no complexes. We have no complex to cause us

to want to get even with someone. We like Dr Velayati, but do not accept his policy. What can we do about it? We also are in this country.

Our country is the people's kind. The people go to war, the people also wish to participate in the demonstrations of tomorrow, the people participate in Friday prayers, they pay taxes, and participate in the elections. It was not such in Romania. A bunch of armed butchers preyed upon the people's lives. These are not from the people. We must evaluate these events. We will not be defeated as long as we have these people. We will be defeated when we lose the support of the people. We were sent to this Majles by the people and we should be able to say what the people want. We do not say any more than this.

Saleh-Abadi, The Representative of the People of Mashhad

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr Saleh-Abadi, the representative of the people of Mashhad. After thanking Mr Khalkhali for his comments of last Tuesday in connection with the presence of Mr Ceausescu, The Romanian president, in Tehran he said:

Our people must know that in view of the prevailing conditions in the world we must maintain our vigilance and alertness more than before. Today, American imperialism and its lackeys in the region are hard at work to destroy all revolutionary countries. They have an old animosity toward us and have been aiming to destroy the Islamic republic of Iran for a long time and now they are more determine than ever before. If our people are present on the scene the enemies cannot do any thing. America is the same country which, in order to put off the Islamic movement in the Middle East region, created Israel, this cancerous tumor, in 1948. As long as Israel exists in the Middle East the hatred and animosity of the Moslems will not be forgotten and their anger toward England and America will continue to increase. Therefore, we must know that America is the enemy of all the people of the world including the unyielding enemy of our Islamic revolution. I advise all youth, especially the ones in Iranian and Egyptian universities, to increase their attacks against the agents of America and its interests and vital military centers. Today we are witnessing the worst and the most savage attack of America on a country that wishes to stand on its own feet. This country is Panama. Americans have ordered the FBI to arrest Noriega and bring him to the White House. Is this the meaning of defending human rights? Is this human rights that orders are issued to arrest the president of a country and take him to the White House? This is why nations do not want to be under U.S. domination.

Is this human rights that for the past 11 years America is aiming to destroy the revolutionary Ortega in Latin America? Is this correct that Americans wants to destroy Libya which wants to stand on its own feet and has always supported Islam and the Islamic revolution and attacked Mr al-Qadhdhafi's place of residence a few years ago? Is this correct that Americans attacked the passenger plane belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran last year? Therefore, it is required of all revolutionary youth to strike against all vital military and security interests of America and know that in this war and clash they will be the one hundred percent winners and Americans will be defeated.

Mr Saleh-Abadi then criticized the policies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and said: Another point is in agreement with the statements of Mr Khalkhali. We have repeatedly witnessed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs lacks correct analysis of the regional issues or global matters. As a result, these problems regretfully result in our beloved president being caught up in an unwanted visit. Mr Ceausescu comes to Iran and upon return is overthrown. We feel shame before the Romanian people. However, the Romanian people should know that the overthrow of any dictator is supported by the Iranian people. We ourselves overthrew a dictator named the Shah, and the free nations of the world were happy for us. We strongly support the Romanian people and hope that they can set up their desired government.

Details of the Discussions

The single item discussed during yesterday's open session was the 5-Year Plan bill.

Note 25: The government is obligated to act on the creation of a central and expert organ, with adequate legal jurisdiction, for centralization of policy making, planning, and delegation of freedom of action to executive units and training institutions in the field of vocational training.

In regard to this note, Mr Safa'i suggested:

In the last line after the word "act" this sentence should be added: "and for all fields of vocational training which are required, in all educational levels from the beginning of elementary education to the end of university education, prepare the necessary programs alongside other educational programs."

In regard to this suggestion Mr Akrami spoke in opposition and Mr Qomi spoke in agreement. After comments by the reporter of the commission and government's representative this suggestion was put to vote and approved.

Note 27: Granting any job permit or license to applicants for positions in the areas of manufacturing, service, and trade in all sectors of the economy shall be contingent upon special vocational training in required fields and obtaining certifications of technical competence. Renewal of old permits and licenses for those who lack technical competence shall be contingent upon their completion of specialized vocational training. The operational directive for implementation of this plan shall be suggested by the ministry of labor and social affairs and shall be approved by the cabinet.

In regard to this note Mr Ahmad Nateq-Nuri suggested that the following sentence, "Renewal of old permits and licenses for those who lack technical competence shall be contingent upon their completion of specialized vocational training." be omitted.

Messrs. Akrami and Hojaji spoke in opposition and in agreement to this suggestion. After comments by the reporter of the commission and government's representative this suggestion was put to a vote and approved.

Note 28: Raw materials, parts, tools, machinery, and equipment needed by the manufacturing ministries (industry and heavy industry, mines and metals) and for national plans shall be exempt from price evaluation at procurement and distribution centers—by the approval of the responsible minister.

This note was suggested by the energy, industry, and mines commission. Messrs. Davudi and Vaqefi spoke in opposition and in agreement to this note. After comments by the reporter of the commission and representative of the government this replacement note was put to a vote and was approved.

Continuation of the Investigation of the 5-Year Plan Bill

The open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, and the study of the 5-Year Plan bill was continued.

Note 29: In accordance with the plan to indemnify the national obligation of the graduates of universities and institutions of higher education, they are obligated to serve—for as long as they took advantage of free education—in regions that require their services in accordance with the needs of the government unless it is declared by the government that their expertise is not needed.

The Energy Commission suggested that the following phrase be added to the end of Note 29: "Also all graduates of universities and institutions of higher education from abroad who took advantage of governmental rates of foreign exchange."

This suggestion was passed by the deputies.

Also, a group of deputies suggested that the phrase "took advantage of free education" be omitted:

Mr Mozafarinejad (Explanation of the Suggestion)

I adhere 100 percent to the principle that our students must go and work in deprived regions. As long as we see ourselves as supporters of the downtrodden, we must certainly do this.

He added: All students must go to the deprived regions. Students who are accepted in public universities have the most susceptible minds because, incidentally, most of them are from the deprived regions. One of the philosophies for the creation of the Free Islamic University was said to be that since some students cannot enter public universities, and are considered leftovers, they can study at this university. Now, here we are saying that students who were suitable and capable to enter public universities should be sent to deprived regions but those gentlemen who studied in Free Universities and private schools can stay in provincial capitals, Tehran and other such cities. No it should not be like this. However, if we omit this phrase of "taking advantage of" and the word "free of charge", then students of public universities as well students of the Free Islamic University and private universities, which perhaps will be established, must go to deprived regions.

Mr Herati (Opposed to the Suggestion)

Mr Herati in opposition to the omission of the phrase "taking advantage of" and the word "free from charge" from Note 28 said:

I do not believe there is even one who opposes the point of view that our students must go and help their oppressed brethren in deprived and isolated regions. There is not even one person in this Majles who is against this. However, one must see what is your basis for obligating one group to serve in deprived regions—for as long as their free academic studies lasted—as opposed to another group who never took advantage of these facilities and free educational opportunities.

He also added: If university students go to school free of charge and without paying a single coin, by taking advantage of student loans, with dormitories and cafeteria then they must be obligated to serve in the deprived regions for the same or even twice as long as their academic term. However, why do you obligate the students of the Free Islamic University, some of whom sell their rugs, their only means of livelihood or an appliance of their home, such as their refrigerator, to pay for their university expenses and study to graduate without taking advantage of even a red coin of public funds? What reason do you have to obligate someone for whom you do no service and provide no facilities and charge high tuitions. Why do you obligate him? In conclusion he pointed out:

Certainly if we try to obligate them here, the Council of Guardians will reject it. It is against social justice that a person who takes advantage of all facilities shall be obligated and one who is not taking advantage of any facilities and has to save from his bread money to pay for his university credits must be forced in this fashion.

Mr Taslimi (Proponent of the Suggestion)

At the start of his speech, in agreement to this suggestion, Mr Taslimi said: At the time when we are talking about the reconstruction and general activity of the country, naturally we should speak about its work force. We are analyzing the plan here and it requires a work force. Movement is supposed to begin all over the country. And there is need for a work force across the country. This is

the principle in which we believe. Later, where the government should provide educational cover, we should not demand that the government be required to provide educational cover across the board to all. When we say that the government needs a work force it means that it is needed to implement this plan. Then, it is not possible that we exempt a group while obligating another.

He added: In order to have equilibrium in regard to the work force, across the country, the government must be given adequate authority. The facilities of higher education in this country have been provided under this regime. Be it public universities and free of charge or private institutions based on other criteria, all have been facilitated and setup under this regime. The output of this trained work force must be demonstrated somewhere in the country. The government shall determine where there is more need for this force and they should go and work there. There are no exceptions here. This suggestion is given in order that the government may be given authority in regard to the distribution of work force. The government shall be the high authority in regard to the supervision of this principle and decide where and it what region the needs are more pressing. The respected deputies should keep in mind that this suggestion is good for all deprived regions.

In conclusion, Mr Taslimi expressed hope and said: God willing with this change in the period of education, it shall be stipulated that all graduates serve all across the country, which are mostly deprived regions, and participate in this program.

Comments of the Planning and Budget Commission Reporter

Mr Hadi Ghaffari, the planning and budget commission reporter, while stating that this suggestion is not as a result of the planning and budget commission's suggestion, said: By inserting this note we, at the commission, intended to be somehow reimbursed for the services we provide. After all we are in a financial position that providing services bears some expenses on us.

While pointing out to the suggestion that the phrase "taking advantage of" and the word "free of charge" should be omitted from Note 28, Mr Ghaffari pointed out: The second part has not been discussed at all in the planning and budget commission. From the outset we based the argument on the principle that, while the country is providing some services, it shall be reimbursed for it. We did not discuss the second issue. Of course we defend our view that we shall be reimbursed for what we provide.

The Government Representative (Proponent of the Suggestion)

In continuation of the discussion about the omission of the phrase "taking advantage of" and the word "free" from Note 28, while pointing out the need for a skilled work force during the 5-Year Plan, the government representative said: It will be acceptable to the government if there can be a mechanism that could expedite the provision of a skilled work force needed for the 5-Year Plan. It means that the government will be able to distribute the expertise in regions where it is needed the most. The most pressing task in the 5-Year Plan is the creation of a skilled work force.

He added: One of the most important expediting or preventive factors in achieving the goals of the plan is the skilled work force especially in areas which, probably, the motivation for absorption of them does not exist. Therefore, the government does not have any objection to this omission and agrees to it.

Note 30:

A: The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is obligated to pay or commit 119 billion 152 million dollars (119,152,000,000) from the foreign exchange earnings, within the frame of the figures inserted in the approved tables of this law, during the period of the first plan.

B: In order to assist in providing the raw materials, machinery, parts and necessary tools for manufacturing exportable items in the duration of the plan, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is obligated to provide exporters with foreign exchange funds in proportion to the export goals and with adequate guarantees.

C: In order to utilize the domestic manufacturing capacity and for transfer of technology, the government is obligated that in implementing plans involving the Ministries of Petroleum, Energy, Post, Telegraph, and Telephone, Defense, Roads and Transport, Jihad, Agriculture, Mines and Metals, Industry, Heavy Industry, and companies or organizations attached to them, at the time of signing contracts with foreign contractors and the purchase of machinery and equipment and implementation of plans, make arrangements so that during the 5-Year Plan from the foreign exchange allocation for the said projects a minimum of 2 billion 500 million dollars (2,500,000,000) worth of added value by way of manufacturing machinery, facilities, manufacturing of goods, and implementation of the projects results from the domestic production.

In a maximum of 3 months after the passing of this law, the economic council shall evaluate the 5-year projects of the said ministries, companies, and organizations and determine their share of the manufactured equipment, goods, and implementation of plans that must be undertaken by industrial ministries. The results of this evaluation shall be reported to the planning and budget organization for recording in agreements for plans and then be reported to the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran for consideration of opening credit.

The executive guidelines for the implementation of this item shall be suggested within 3 months by the industrial ministries, the planning and budget organization, and

the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and shall be approved by the cabinet.

D: To provide foreign exchange for completion or undertaking of industrial or manufacturing investments as mentioned in a table to be provided by the government in conjunction with the budget bill for the year 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991], the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is authorized to act such that it establishes commitments of up to 7 billion and 500 million dollars (7,500,000,000) in a way that, in addition to completion of the project within the desired time frame, the repayment of the established commitment after the initiation of unit is amortized over at least 5 years. Also, the total amortized payments shall not exceed 2 billion dollars (2,000,000,000) per annum.

Established commitments from the savings and the foreign exchange income resulting from the above mentioned projects shall be included in the annual budget and shall be paid out.

The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic can act to secure a maximum of 10 percent of each contract as down payment and can deduct this from the total of the foreign exchange share of the respective sector in the budget of the respective year.

The executive guideline of this item shall be presented by the the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran within a maximum of 2 months and shall be approved by the cabinet.

E: The foreign exchange share of the executive organizations, in accordance with the foreign exchange tables registered in this plan, shall be determined annually and provided to respective executive organizations in accordance with the suggestion of the foreign exchange allocation committee and approval of the cabinet.

F: For full utilization of the country's water and power resources, the government is authorized to allocate funds up to 3 billion dollars (3,000,000,000) through long term credit contracts for the construction of the following dams: Karun 3, Flowing Karun 4, and Karkheh.

G: In order to provide the gas needed for domestic use and export and exploitation of the natural gas reserves of Pars and Southern Pars (jointly with Qatar) the National Iranian Oil Company is permitted and authorized to sign the necessary contracts with qualified foreign companies not to exceed 3 billion 200 million dollars (3,200,000,000). This shall be done in a way that the payment of investment costs results from the production from the said reserves.

H: The National Petrochemical Products Company is permitted to commit 3 billion 200 million dollars from the sale of options, with the guarantee of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran for petrochemical investment projects.

I: The government is authorized to act in order to fulfill some of the needs of the industry and mines sectors, in regard to the issues related to production, exports, and the respective investments, by way of reciprocal transactions up to 10 billion dollars (10,000,000,000). The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and respective executive organs shall implement the guidelines under this item with proper guarantees.

Executive guidelines for this item shall be prepared after 3 months from the passing of this bill by industrial and mineral ministries and the the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and shall be approved by the cabinet.

Mr Ha'erizadeh suggested that this note be omitted.

Mr Ha'erizadeh (Explanation of the Suggestion)

In explaining his suggestion, Mr Ha'erizadeh said: The issue of industrial expansion based on exports, which has been the common practice in the world since the 60's, was such that the analysis of the condition of the countries which adopted this method may be a good case study. Now those very same countries are the worst debtor nations.

In continuation of his speech he added: Please take note of item "D" and judge for yourself that what kind of a planning is this and how the Majles would like to make a decision. Also, the tables of the plan that will be sent to the Majles in conjunction with the 69 budget bill [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991]. We have no idea what these plans are. In addition, items "C", "D", "F", "G", "H", and "I" were not in the government's bill. However, we object to the whole skeleton of the bill. Referring to the issue of borrowing, Mr Ha'erizadeh said: We must think about how the third world countries fell into the trap of borrowing and the enormous amounts they have to pay as interest payments.

Mr Ha'erizadeh then added: There are fluctuations in our oil income and we have not been able to resolve this yet. It means that we have taken the commitment of the Central Bank to the 30 billion dollar mark. Now, gentlemen you judge for yourselves what is wrong with these figures? How can we take the Central Bank to the brink of 30 billion dollars? What if we cannot pay back? Was it not the year 64 [21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986] that prices declined sharply? You must also account for possibilities and do not allow the Central Bank to remain in the 30 billion mark. In contracts we must clarify all issues. If the Central Bank allocates foreign exchange for the tire manufacturing plant, then, what happens if the factory cannot sell the tires? Then files will be made inactive. Therefore, the allocation of foreign exchange should be done haphazardly.

In conclusion he pointed out that this suggestion should be omitted for the time being until there is more expert discussion about it and then be sent back to the Majles.

Mr Jahangiri (Opponent of the Suggestion)

In opposition to this suggestion, Mr Eshaq Jahangiri said: Omission of this note means the omission of the plan altogether because it renders it meaningless. This note has negative and positive points. Today the government's budget is not its rial budget. During 61 and 62 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1984] the government did not have a foreign exchange budget because it did not need it. However, we insist that the government present its foreign exchange budget to the Majles. This is the main key for the country.

He added: The cabinet has said, "Why do we need to take the foreign exchange to the Majles?" Then please note that it is our insistence. The omission of the note means that the Majles should not know how the foreign exchange budget earning of the country is being spent. Also, omission of this note means taking the contents out of the Plan.

Mr Jahangiri objected to the statements made by Mr Ha'erizadeh and said: "Mr Ha'erizadeh you have criticized the positive points of the note when in fact these items were not such that they warrant your criticism. In item "B" we allocated 100 million dollars, as export funds, to the Central Bank so that if exporters of dates and others have any problems or there are problems with packaging of export goods the Central Bank can provide the funds. Mr Ha'erizadeh! Who builds power plants and refineries? Who runs our communication and industry? Are they other than foreigners? We have said that in contracts that the government signs with foreigners. It means that in regard to this 100 billion dollars [as published] such must be done that our domestic factories productions are not closed down. Mr Ha'erizadeh! I was a member of the foreign exchange allocation commission. The fertilizer which is much needed by our farmers, and is a crucial thing, does exist in factories but we do not have tires so that trucks can carry it. Therefore the delivery is delayed and we must get the tire factory to produce in order to alleviate this problem."

Mr Robati (Proponent of the Suggestion)

In agreement with this proposal, Mr Robati said: I accept the statements made by Mr Jahangiri. However, I would like to say that many items of this plan have nothing to offer. This plan has only growth overtones and has no serious ground for expansion. It is this growth overtone that attaches itself to this plan. If this note were to exist, the plan tends to grow with the aid of this note.

In continuation he added: In the third world countries the problem of growth and expansion has been taken into account in the plan and, only then, it was determined that they do not have adequate capital. As a result, they wondered what to do. They decided that they should explore borrowing. According to some calculation, the total debts of these countries between 1982 to 1990 has been around two thousand billion dollars. Now that these experiences have been gained, then, why should we close our eyes and go after borrowing?!

He pointed out: Consider the fact that countries like Japan have become so advanced after 260 years of isolation and, nevertheless, meanwhile controlled themselves in order to complete all these phases before entering into the ring of activity or China with its communist system or even West Germany with its capitalist system. They were all like what we are. The Germany of the Hitler era consumed so much of its domestic production while drastically reducing imports, to the point of being called protectionist, until they succeeded in expanding their country's economy. You disregard the history of the developing countries and, instead, refer to the history of third world countries, which their fate is already determined.

Mr Robati added: In view of the failures, non-materialization of certain goals that we will have in the plan, the fate of this issue can be anticipated.

Comments of the Commission Reporter

Mr Hadi Ghaffari, the reporter of the planning and budget commission, in regard to the omission of this note said:

If this note is omitted, the same calamity that the gentlemen are well aware of will befall us. If this note does not exist then the government can act in any way it wishes. It means that it will determine the foreign exchange ceiling as it wishes. This note contains several messages: 1) It determines the foreign exchange ceiling. If you shut it down how can you control it? It means that you are going to take away the supervision. 2) We are giving the government a direction by this note. We have obligated the government to ensure that we get 2.5 billion dollars worth of added value.

Mr Ghaffari also said: By omitting this note we will not have the mechanism with which we want to control it. Of course we may want to omit several items, which we eventually will. However, if we omit the generalities of this note then the supervision of the Majles, the added value and...etc will be lost also. Therefore, it is not in the interest of the country that this note be omitted.

Comments by the Administrator of the Planning and Budget Organization

Mr Roghani-Zanjani, the administrator of the planning and budget organization, spoke in opposition to this suggestion as the representative of the government. He said:

I am surprised that although the 5-Year Plan has been the subject of discussions in various commissions, councils, and as part of the planning and budget of the previous government since the month of Mehr [23 September - 22 October] of last year until now which is the month of Dey [22 December - 20 January], about 1 year and 3 months, now some brothers say, "We don't know to which plan this foreign exchange money is going to. We don't know where we want to spend this foreign exchange." Then where from did this foreign exchange

table come from? Then what was the reason for you to study these plans in the commission? Didn't we evaluate them? Didn't we see them and assigned each of them a value which we evaluated? If some brothers on the commission didn't do this then it cannot be a reason for the whole country to be put on hold. As far as I know, all planning and budget experts, executive organs, the planning and budget commission, and on down used to drag us here and there and demand that we explain. Incidentally, one of these controversial items which has been dragging us before various commissions has been this foreign exchange note. How can you say that you did not notice how much foreign exchange should be allocated to these power plants? How can you say that you did not notice how much was allocated for the copper plan, the steel plan, the Ahvaz steel plan, natural gas and other plans? Now what the brothers want to do is to mess up 1 year and 3 months of planning by the government and the Majles. Then, why did you bring this table? Where did the table come from? Is it not true that we added them up and down, established ceilings, and organized the sum total of the foreign exchange of the country? This not a logical reason that the brothers claim. I calculated this 120 billion dollars for the 5 years and it is evident in these tables. Now we want to rearrange everything. For what reason? You who rely on these small meetings to discuss the general mechanism for planning for the whole country and the planning for whole districts are now rearranging the whole planning procedure.

Mr Zanjani then added: We are accused that our model is western. It is indeed interesting. I tell our brother not to look at the third world but let us look at Germany, look at Japan, and look at China. Incidentally, where do you think our brother got the idea for such talk? After the war, the Americans provided Japan with all its financial resources. American wrote their laws. Americans set up and ran their factories with their own money. Is this what we want to have as a model? What kind of a logical approach to solving the problem is this which is taken by our brother?

In continuation he added: Incidentally, one of the important characteristics of Note 29 is the answer to one of the criticisms of our brothers that "our manufacturing capability is destroyed, our independence is gone, and our industry is laid in ruins and now we have to import all of them." This mechanism says that you should utilize domestic products as much as possible. What is wrong with this? We say this Ministry of Petroleum and this Ministry of Energy can go and sign contracts with foreign contractors. However, we tell the Minister of Energy that he should obligate the contractor in the contract to utilize the equipment which can be manufactured domestically so that our own factories are running in full force, there can be transfer of technology, there can be domestic earnings and our employment rate rises. I do not know what is anti-independence about this?! This is, exactly, independence and anti-dependence.

After the government representative's statements the suggestion was put to a vote but did not pass.

Pakistan

Cabinet Discusses 'Grave Situation' in Kashmir

BK2901131390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The Federal Cabinet discussed the grave situation obtaining in the Indian-held Kashmir as a result of the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people at a special meeting in Islamabad today [January 29]. The meeting was chaired by the senior federal minister, Begum Nusrat Bhutto.

The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, briefed the cabinet about the situation and his recent discussions with the Indian prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, and the foreign minister, Mr I.K. Gujral.

The cabinet decided that a solidarity week will be observed from Friday next [2 February] to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir. It also decided that the foreign minister will make a policy statement on Kashmir over radio and television tomorrow [30 January].

Minister Briefs Newsmen

BK2901154790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The Federal Cabinet held a special session in Islamabad to review the current situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting, which lasted for more than 6 hours, was chaired by Senior Federal Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan briefed the cabinet on the current situation in occupied Kashmir and on his recent talks with Indian leaders in New Delhi.

Later, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Ahmad Saeed Awan, told newsmen that an in-depth discussion was held on all aspects of the Kashmir issue, which was created as a result of depriving the people of Kashmir of their right to self-determination. He said the cabinet has decided to convene a joint session of parliament on the 10th of next month to discuss this issue. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is expected to attend the joint session.

The cabinet decided that Senior Federal Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto, accompanied by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub and Minister of State for Defense Colonel Sarwar Cheema, retired, will contact the leaders of the opposition parties and brief them on the situation in occupied Kashmir.

The cabinet also decided that the foreign minister would give a policy statement on the current situation in Kashmir tomorrow evening at 1930 on radio and television.

Ahmad Saeed Awan said the Cabinet also decided that a week of solidarity will be observed starting next Friday [2 February] to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir. Special prayers will be held during the Friday congregations for martyrs, and seminars and a symposium will be organized during the week. The cabinet offered prayers for those martyrs of Kashmir who sacrificed their lives while facing the Indian Army's repression and excesses.

Ahmad Saeed Awan said that Pakistan's stand on Kashmir is clear. Pakistan wants the issue to be settled on the basis of the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. He described the situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir as grave and said that India has started a large-scale campaign against Pakistan and is alleging that Pakistan has had a hand in the current struggle in Kashmir. He emphasized that only the people of occupied Kashmir are involved in the current struggle in Kashmir, and clarified that Pakistan is not providing any material help to the people of occupied Kashmir, but will continue extending moral support to them. He appealed to the world community to support the Kashmiri brethren so that they can decide their own future through a free plebiscite.

The state minister said that the entire nation is united on the Kashmir issue and that the police and administration in occupied Kashmir have failed to suppress the struggle despite the governor's rule there.

Answering a question, he said that the armed forces of Pakistan and the entire nation is united and ready to face any threat.

Ahmad Saeed Awan said that the attack on the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi was a result of the strong stand taken by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on the Kashmir issue. The present government's stand is the same as that taken by the late prime minister, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Conference Demands UN Council Meet on Kashmir

BK2901025590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] At a conference on Kashmir held in Lahore yesterday, speakers urged the people to forge complete unity in their ranks to provide full support to the Kashmiri freedom fighters. A resolution adopted by the conference demanded convening of a meeting of the UN Security Council to stop atrocities and oppression against Muslims in the Indian-occupied Kashmir and to ensure the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people to enable them to decide their future in keeping with their own aspirations and in accordance with the UN Charter. The speakers urged the government to send missions to foreign countries to apprise them of the problems of the Kashmiris and to mobilize moral support for the cause of the Kashmiri people.

The conference was chaired by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the Pakistan Democratic Party chief and National Assembly member, and was addressed by Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, the Azad Kashmir prime minister, and others.

Mir Waiz Maulvi Farooq, a Kashmiri leader [in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir], has said that disturbances in the Kashmir Valley are a result of the 45-year-old stalemate on the Kashmir issue, which is purely a political problem. In a statement in Srinagar yesterday, he appealed to Muslim countries and the United Nations to stop the massacre of innocent people at the hands of Indian forces in Indian-occupied Kashmir. He declared that the Kashmiri people's struggle for freedom cannot be suppressed by oppressive activities of the occupying authorities, like giving the region into the control of Indian forces, making the people hostage through imposition of curfew restrictions, carrying out raids at night, large-scale arrests, suppressing press freedom, and other such activities.

Mir Waiz Maulvi Farooq said more than 150 people have been killed by Indian forces over the past 2 weeks and that the bodies of the dead have not been handed to their relatives.

Azad Kashmir Delegations To Explain Situation

BK2701165090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, has said his government will send delegations to the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Scandinavian countries to apprise the world of the situation in occupied Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, he said the uprising of the people in the India-held Kashmir is now spreading to all parts of the valley.

Kashmir Leaders Vow To Continue 'Uprising'

BK2901160890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sikander Hayat Khan has expressed the confidence that the current uprising in the occupied Kashmir will ultimately lead to the attainment of the Kashmiri people's goal. He said the Kashmiri people are carrying out their current struggle to achieve their right of self-determination, which India has denied them. Addressing a news conference in Lahore, he emphasized the need to secure greater worldwide support for the just struggle of the Kashmiri people.

The chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Amanullah Khan, has said that the Kashmiri people will never accept any solution of the Kashmir issue other than that based on self-determination. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad, he said the Indian forces have martyred 7,000 persons and injured thousands more during the past week. Many more persons have been arrested. They are being tortured and receiving inhumane treatment. He said the Jammu and kashmir Liberation

Front is the most active organization in the Indian occupied Kashmir. He categorically stated that only the people of occupied Kashmir are involved in our struggle and that we will continue this struggle till success is achieved. He appealed to the world conscience, especially the Islamic world, members of the Nonaligned Movement, and Western nations, to put pressure on India to immediately stop the massacre of Kashmiris and to give them the right of self-determination as promised by India.